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TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1990/ZULQAD 26, 1410 AH

24 PAGES 150 FILS

Four Kuwaitis acquitted

Proceedings shortest in the annals of the State Security Court

FOUR Kuwaiti defendants, accused of instigating the toppling of the regime in 1986, were acquitted by the State Security Court yesterday. The court proceedings and deliberations have been termed by knowledgeable sources as being "the shortest in the annals of the State Security Court."

The court, held under the chairmanship of Counselor, Mohammed Abdel Hay Al Bannai, acquitted the defendants from all 10 counts within a span of a few minutes. However, in the final summation, the court decided that it was not

authorised to try the prime suspect on two counts of forgery of records. The court fined each of the defendants KD150 to collect fees for four defence lawyers appointed by the court. Deliberations into the case opened for hearings last May 12. The four Kuwaiti nationals acquitted by the court are Sayyed Bager Sayyed Abbas Al Mousawi, Faisal Abdel Hadi Al Mahmood, Walid Sayyed Redha Al Mazzeedi and Abdel Hamid Abdel Kareem Al Saffar. They had been accused of being part of outlawed groups with the prime objective of overthrowing the present regime, possession and attempted use of explosives with intent

to kill innocent people and of smuggling explosives.

The four defendants were arrested in September last year and were initially charged with conspiring to topple the country's regime and plotting to blow up the Kuwait Airways building. They were accused of participating with two others in planting an explosive charge in a car in May last year.

The prosecution claimed that the plan failed when the explosive device went off prematurely killing the two occupants.

Big plans at KAC
 KUWAIT, June 18. (Reuters): Kuwait Airways has begun legal and procedural steps to set up an aircraft leasing company with \$20 million capital, chairman Ahmed Al Misani says. He was quoted by Al Qabas newspaper today as saying the company would initially be wholly owned by Kuwait Airways but would later invite Arab financial institutions and airlines to become partners. (Details Page 14)

Kuwait starts oil output cuts
 NICOSIA, June 18. (Reuters): Kuwait has started cutting oil output but the United Arab Emirates, has failed to follow suit, officials and oil industry executives said today. Opec President Sadek Boussena was reported today to have warned Opec members of an oil price slump unless they respected quotas set last month. Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh criticised both countries on Sunday for breaking Opec's May 3 pact to cut total output. Kuwaiti officials said recently that June output would be close to the 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) allocated by the Opec. (Details Page 13)



Schwarzenegger in action

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Hollywood's Mr. Invincible, becomes a complete pussycat when the topic turns to his family. In his latest film 'Total Recall' he plays a man who discovers he has had strange memories implanted into his brain which have blocked out his own memories. Film director Paul Verhoeven says, "when you see him in action you start to think he's more body than brains." — See Page 18

Shamir invites Assad

Israel asks Arabs to disband PLO

CAIRO, June 18. (AP): Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir today used the newspaper of Egypt's ruling political party to suggest peace talks in occupied Jerusalem with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. He also urged the Arabs to demonstrate their good will by disbanding the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The interview in the weekly Mayo, published by President Hosni

Mubarak's National Democratic Party, was Shamir's first since forming a new cabinet this month. Egypt is the only Arab country at peace with Jewish state.

In Jerusalem, Israeli commentators viewed the timing and content of the interview as a message from Shamir's new right-wing government to the Egyptians and the other Arabs.

Iran, Iraq in direct talks for summit

NICOSIA, June 18. (Reuters): Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said today officials from Tehran and Baghdad were holding talks to prepare for a peace summit between himself and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

But he said he would agree to meet Saddam only when a comprehensive settlement to the Gulf conflict is assured on the basis of Security Council Resolution 598.

"Our only condition is that this meeting be held at a time when, after due preparations, the final decision can be made," Tehran Radio quoted Rafsanjani as saying.

"We will not take the risk of entering into dubious talks. Once preparations are made, peace is a valuable enough for us to hold (direct) talks and we will do it."

"Right now representatives of US and Iraq are holding talks to prepare the grounds," he said.

Rafsanjani, responding to reporters' questions in the northeastern city of Mashhad about Saddam Hussein's proposal for a summit, did not say where the talks were being held.

Iraq has replied positively to one of two letters from Saddam last month which proposed direct talks to reach a formal settlement of the Gulf war.

"The resolution is our focus and the Secretary-General (Javier Perez de Cuellar) is in charge of implementing it," Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafsanjani as saying.

"Otherwise, they can fundamentally harm the peace. We have therefore asked the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts," the president said.

Soviets ask Turkey to return pilot

ISTANBUL, June 18. (Reuters): The Soviet Union has asked Ankara to return a Soviet pilot who sought asylum after flying a single-engine plane to Turkey today, Turkish Foreign Ministry officials said.

The Soviet news agency Tass said the pilot took the Antonov-2 from an airport near the border with Romania. It said he came from Odessa and had resigned his job several months ago.

The plane landed near the town of Kefken, 100 km (60 miles) east of Istanbul. Officials there named the pilot as Valeri Yurevich, 29. They said no one else was on board the 12-seat aircraft, owned by an Odessa hotel and used for tourist flights.



Brazilian in pain

Brazilian World Cup soccer player Jose Babeto Olivera grimaces in pain after colliding with team-mate goalkeeper Jose Za Carlos Araujo during a training session in Asolo, Italy, Sunday. Babeto was later taken to hospital for X-ray of his right knee. (Reuters wirephoto)

Argentina-Romania draw 1-1; Soviets beat Cameroon 4-0

Iraq repeats threat

We'll hit back

CAIRO, June 18. (Agencies): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein today reiterated his earlier threat to attack Israel, saying he would use all military hardware at his disposal such as poison gas if the Jewish state attacked any Arab state, including Syria and even Mauritania, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (Mena) reported.

Saddam, addressing a session of the popular Islamic conference in Baghdad held to support Iraq, said: "We will strike back with force and with all means at our disposal in case of (Israeli) aggression against Iraq or any other Arab country." Mena quoted Saddam as saying:

"Iraq will respond against Israel if it attacks Syria, we will wipe out half of Israel with fire if there is an attack," Saddam said.

Saddam earlier this year accused a number of Western countries of waging a smear campaign against Iraq after Baghdad in March executed a British journalist on spying charges. British customs the same month foiled an alleged Iraqi plot to smuggle US-made nuclear triggers and parts for a supergun through London.

Saddam, accusing Western states of paving the ground for a repetition of a 1981 Israeli raid on a nuclear reactor under construction near Baghdad, threatened to wipe out half of Israel with poison gas in case of an Israeli attack.

Khaddafi wants A-bomb fast

LONDON, June 18. (UPI): Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi has called on scientists to intensify atomic research "in defiance of America" and to counter more than 200 nuclear weapons he said were deployed by Israel against Arab nations.

The military leader also during a speech delivered yesterday to university staff and students condemned Washington for withholding from Tripoli technology that would allow it to put Libyans into orbit above the United States, Britain and Israel.

"America manufactures missiles and puts above our heads satellites," Khaddafi said in the speech released by the nation's Jana news service and monitored by the British Broadcasting

Corp. in London.

"This provokes you and ignites in you the spirit of defiance and revolution to reach space and manufacture the atom," Jana quoted him as telling the researchers.

He urged scientists to "work day and night to shorten time and intensify efforts to reach space and manufacture the atom in defiance of America."

Khaddafi said a US-led technical embargo was aimed at preventing Libyans from reaching space and the skies of America.

He claimed Israel had manufactured more than 200 nuclear warheads, which were mounted on missiles and were aimed at Arab cities.

Kashmir talks set

Militants form government

MUZZAFARABAD, Pakistan, June 18. (Reuters): The main Muslim militant group fighting Indian rule of Jammu and Kashmir state named a provisional government today and said the aim was to step up its battle.

But political analysts said the surprise move, announced by Amanullah Khan, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, might not

find favour with Pakistan. Meanwhile, India said today it has agreed to a Pakistani suggestion that the most senior foreign affairs officials of the two countries meet to try to reduce tension over Kashmir.

An Indian Foreign Affairs spokesman said the two foreign secretaries could meet next month.

I'll get rebel chief's head

Lanka minister vows

COLOMBO, June 18. (AP): The commander of government troops leading an offensive against Tamil guerrillas vowed today that he would get the head of the rebel commander.

Tamil guerrillas withdrew into the jungle and pledged to continue the war after the 2-day-old ceasefire broke down. There were reports of scattered clashes.

Justice Minister Shavul Hameed, who negotiated the truce Saturday, pleaded for the two sides to stop the fighting that has claimed 11,000 lives in seven years.

"My genuine efforts to bring about an end to this carnage has failed," Hameed told Parliament. "I appeal to everybody to help restore sanity in this country."

The government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) accused each other of using the ceasefire to

fortify positions and bring in supplies and reinforcements.

The ceasefire had been broken repeatedly over the weekend. By midday today, both sides reported their forces were engaging in firefights along this island nation's east coast and in the north.

"From now it is all-out war. We will annihilate the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, take over the east and then go for the north," Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told Parliament.

Speaking during a debate on extending a state of emergency for another month, Wijeratne said 600 rebels had been killed since fighting broke out on June 11. "Our losses have been minimal," he added.

Unofficial estimates had put the death toll in the seven days of fighting at more than 450, including rebels, members of the

(Continued on Page 2)

Mysterious clique of young officers emerges in Manila as threat

MANILA, June 18. (AP): A shadowy group of young military officers claims to be leading an underground movement bent on overthrowing President Corason Aquino and the social system she represents.

The Young Officers Union, or YOU, appeared last year as yet another clique in the factionalised armed forces of the Philippines.

The extent of YOU's membership within the 15,000-member officer corps—or even whether the organisation exists at all beyond press speculation—is the subject of considerable

press and foreign diplomats.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos dismisses YOU as a public relations creation of the better-known Reform the Armed Forces Movement, whose image has been tarnished because of links to discredited politicians.

But some officials apparently take the group seriously: the military has offered a total of 1.5 million pesos (\$77,000) in rewards for the arrest of seven renegade officers identified as YOU leaders.

Some military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, estimate that up to half the

lieutenants and captains in field units are either members or supporters of YOU.

YOU's origins are as obscure as the organisation itself. Sources said it emerged as a separate faction after renegade Lt. Col Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan failed in an attempt to overthrow Aquino in August 1987.

Some officers claim YOU also played a major role in last December's bloody coup attempt, along with Honasan's Reform the Armed Forces Movement.

Sources said the movement's officers have been

Honasan because they felt he and other movement leaders were indecisive and too closely allied to opposition politicians.

Military sources both inside the outside YOU said the new organisation was also born of frustration among junior officers with fighting the 21-year war against communist rebels.

A colonel, speaking on condition of anonymity, said combat experience has persuaded many young officers that the real enemy is not the communist New People's Army, but

poverty, social oppression, corruption and the

Around her neck

A woman grimaces as a snake wraps around her neck unexpectedly during an educational show of snakes at Yuyuan park in Beijing, yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Florida gunman kills six

JACKSONVILLE, June 18. (Agencies): A gunman killed six people in an office building today and then committed suicide, police said. Several other people were wounded.

Local radio reports said the gunman was apparently infuriated because his car had been repossessed. Police said they were investigating the motive.

"He went through the office indiscriminately shooting customers," said Duval county sheriff Jim McMillan. His victims included both customers and employees at the loan office, police said.

They said at least seven other people were injured by the gunman, who was "probably 30 to 40 years old."

Details were sketchy on the shootings, which occurred inside the General Motors Acceptance Corp. building at the Baymeadows office park just before 11 am (1600 GMT), said Jacksonville police spokesman Sgt. Steve Weintraub.

"There are seven dead," said Weintraub, who added that several others were wounded.

The gunman killed himself at the end of the shootings, Weintraub said.

Three wounded — two men and a woman — were airlifted to two local hospitals.

Pot lock
Few bargains at marriage bazaar

PATNA, India, June 18. (Reuters): About 4,000 would-be bridegrooms went in search of end-of-the-season brides at an Indian "marriage bazaar" but only 10 to 15 found their match, organisers said today.

The annual fair at Saurath in northern Bihar state started more than 400 years ago as a way of cutting the cost of India's traditional arranged marriages and pairing off members of an exclusive Brahmin sect, at the top of the Hindu caste hierarchy.

But old timers at Saurath, some 200 km (125 miles) north of the Bihar capital Patna, say today's would-be grooms are reducing their chances with inflated dowry demands.

Would-be brides do not appear at the fairground for the week-long Saurath Sabha or assembly.

ARAB TIMES

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Kashmir – a paradise on earth that has been lost

SRINAGAR, India, June 18, (AP): It's springtime in Kashmir, and there are roses everywhere.

Bigger than peonies, bluish-pink roses bloom in regal splendour in the meticulously tended 17th century Moghul Gardens. Neatly pruned and staked, white and yellow roses invoke the image of past prosperity outside the shuttered tourist hotels facing Dal Lake.

Kashmir, crossroads of the ancient world, way station on the old "Silk Road" from the Near East to the Far East, was once a paradise.

Today it is an armed camp.

Employees of the state government, whose association with Indian authority is enough to make them targets for the guns of independence-minded Kashmiris, are escorted by armed guards from barricaded hostels inside the compound of the no-longer-needed tourist office to barricaded office buildings.

In the Moghul Gardens overlooking the lake, the only people in sight are two elderly gardeners and two young soldiers taking a break from trying to contain the burgeoning Muslim revolt.

Down in the city, red roses are shredded petal by petal and scattered on fresh graves.

The fragrance of the roses wafts across these "martyrs' cemeteries" created for victims of the struggle between Muslim separatists and the government of India, which is secular but dominated by Hindus.

Indian soldiers and paramilitary police guard Srinagar's main streets and every bridge over the Jhelum river, which snakes through the city of one million people.

By day, parts of Srinagar assume an air of near-normality. Small groceries and butcher shops open. Pedestrians, bicycles, horse carts, mini-buses and cars ply the streets.

By night, when curfew is imposed as it has been since winter, Srinagar is a ghost town.

Streets start emptying an hour before the usual 6 pm deadline. People check their watches to see how much time they have to get home, or at least out of sight of the patrols.

Packs of shaggy black and brown dogs roam the streets with their sturdy puppies, rested after a day of lolling in the sun. A single howl starts a canine chorus that reverberates across the city.

Out on Dal Lake and adjacent Nageen Lake, soldiers and dogs are rarely heard. About 1,200 houseboats are licensed to take paying guests, but hardly any tourists arrive these days.

Moonlight shimmers across the water. Ducks quack once in a while.

The occasional dip of an oar ripples the lake's glassy surface. Houseboat dwellers and their small, arrowlike boats called "shikaras" are not bound by the curfew if they stay away from shore.

Kashmir, whose name was Anglicised by British colonial rulers to describe the "cashmere" wool of the shawls and carpets still woven here, has long been synonymous with beauty.

Over the centuries, followers of most of the world's great religions came here. Muslims, now the majority; Buddhists, who still have a few remote monasteries in Kashmir; Christians, who operate a few schools; and Jews, whose last known descendants departed for Israel or Indian cities in the past decade.

One legend says Moses, a patriarch of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths, passed this way.

Another holds that Jesus did not die on the cross, but came to Kashmir, lived to the age of 80 and was buried as "Yuz Asaf" in a tomb that still can be seen in the centre of Srinagar.

Kashmir

He described his coalition as "the provisional government of the independent state of Jammu (and) Kashmir."

Pakistan rejects the idea of an independent Kashmir. It wants the predominantly Muslim Kashmiris to decide in a UN-mandated plebiscite to join either Islamic Pakistan or Hindu-majority India.

Asked about the possible Pakistani response to the formation of his provisional government, Amanullah said: "We will have a lot of difficulty. I may be locked up somewhere. I am fully prepared for this."

He said he was sure his announcement would raise the morale of the militants. It was made, he said without elaboration, to forestall "some dangerous moves...to sabotage our struggle."

His council included members of various other Muslim militant groups operating in the two-thirds of Kashmir ruled by India. Pakistan controls the remaining third.

The three Hindu members included Karan Singh, a member of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's government and the son of Kashmir's last princely ruler, Hari Singh.

Amanullah said he had consulted most members of the council but he accepted that some might renounce their membership under Indian pressure.

Amanullah made his announcement two days after a newly-elected legislative assembly took the oath of office in Pakistan's Azad (free) Kashmir.

A new Azad Kashmir government, likely to be led by followers of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, is due to take office before the end of the month.

Amanullah said his provisional government would have no clash with the Azad Kashmir government. Its basic objective would be "to accelerate the freedom struggle on all fronts...political, armed and diplomatic."

"It is not a parallel government," he said. "The Azad Kashmir government, for all practical purposes, is a local authority. Our government represents the people who are fighting."

Amanullah said it was premature to say whether he would seek recognition of his government. He said it would be based "somewhere in Kashmir" but declined to say where.

Indian paramilitary police trapped a group of Kashmiri Muslim fighters in a house in southern Srinagar today, and seven people, including five policemen, were killed in a gun battle, police sources said.

The Muslim rebels opened fire with automatic weapons as about 100 officers from the Central Reserve Police Force surrounded the house near airport road on the southern outskirts of the city, witnesses said.

Witnesses said later that gunfire smashed every window in the multi-storey home, which is owned by a professor from Kashmir University who was in New Delhi at the time. They said a police truck had been riddled by bullets from the militants.

Police sources said at least five paramilitary police and two rebels were killed in the fighting, which broke out about 1 pm.

Three militants were arrested, including Rafi Punjabi, the brother of the professor who owns the house, witnesses said.

Punjabi's wife said police locked her in a room with her two children as they searched the residence.

"I am confined to my ground floor room with my two children, who won't stop weeping because their father was carried away," she said in a telephone interview.

She said about 30 policemen had been stationed in and around the house. The entire neighbourhood was cordoned off by police and traffic to the airport was diverted to a secondary road. Merchants in the area immediately closed their shops following the incident.

Lanka

Wijerathne, who has been leading the government offensive, told Parliament he wanted to get the Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

"Prabhakaran wants my head, according to a recent statement made in Jaffna. I am taking steps to get his head," Wijerathne said.

A Defence Ministry statement said "since the ceasefire has been violated by the LTTE, security forces are taking all action to restore law and order in the affected areas."

A Tiger spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said in a telephone interview from the eastern town of Batticaloa that "we continue our retreat into the jungles. We will fight from there."

Fighting has flared both in Batticaloa, 218 kms (136 miles) from Colombo, and in Jaffna, 300 kms (186 miles) northeast of the capital.


Since the fighting started, the Tigers have taken over scores of police stations stretching along the eastern coast.

(Continued from Page 1)

(Continued from Page 1)

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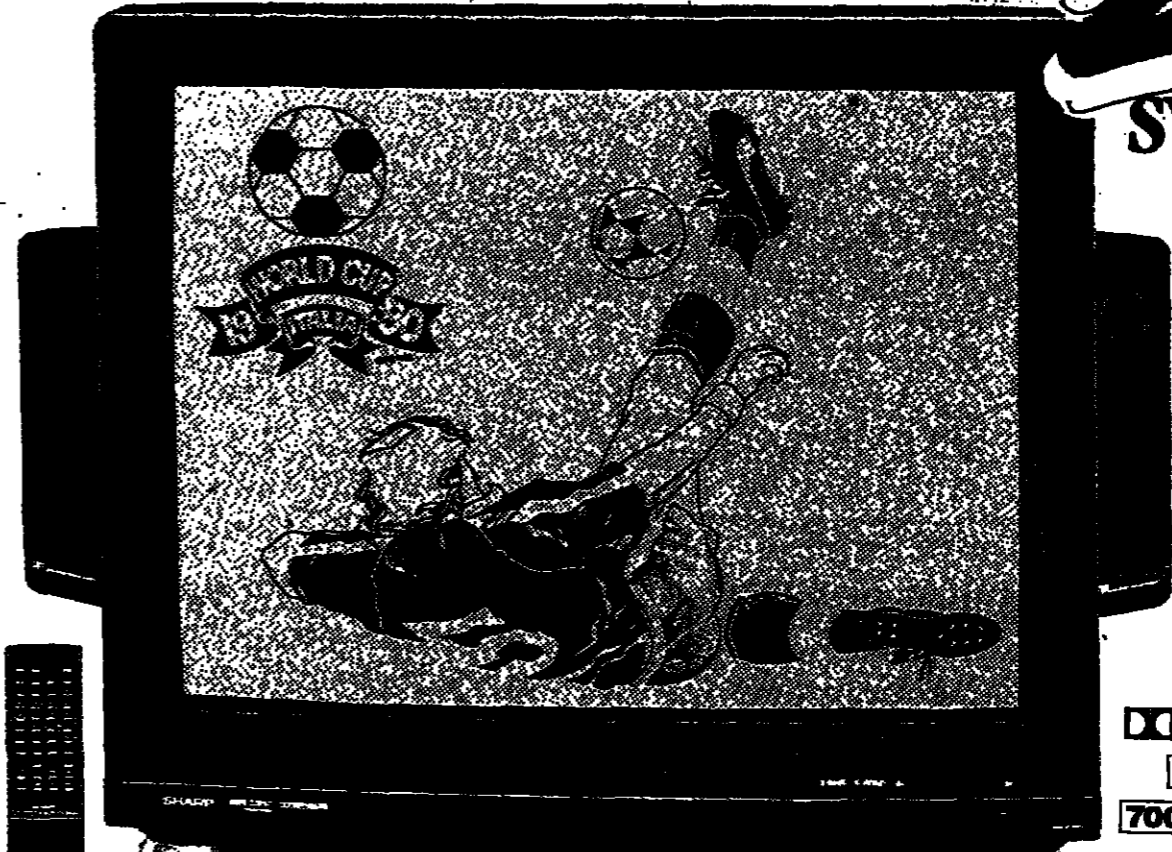
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Donald and Ivana Trump in happier days aboard their yacht.

It's all a game really

Beat-up Trump months

NEW YORK, June 18, (AP): Donald Trump begins his best-selling guide to entrepreneurial success, "The Art of the Deal," by declaring, "I don't do it for the money. I've got enough, much more than I'll ever need."

The same man, that icon of the American dream, lately has been telling a parade of bankers to his Trump Tower office in midtown Manhattan that he needs about \$100 million — precisely what he needs.

On Friday, Trump said he missed a deadline to pay \$10 million to holders of his Trump Castle casino junk bonds.

After a decade of buying hotels, casinos, air craft and land, a decade in which he came to personify the rich braggart and shameless self-promoter, Trump has been slowed down by simple math.

He's taking in less than he needs to finance his debts — \$770,000 a week less, according to Forbes magazine.

Bankers seem willing to help Trump, but — given a drop in the value of the 44-year-old developer's Manhattan real estate and in the tenuous revenue projections from his Atlantic City casinos — not entirely on his terms.

Trump had to put up new collateral and "he's trying to sell the yacht, the plane and the helicopters," said a source familiar with Trump's affairs, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "You know, the smaller assets."

Whatever his resolution, Trump's cash crunch threatens his prized ability to control his empire, do his deals, indulge in his extravaganzas.

Above all, it has weakened his most impressive office — his legend, which lured tourists to his hotels, gamblers to his casinos, celebrities to his New York City apartment towers.

It might even have led bankers to give too much credit for his own good. "People tend to be mesmerized by his personality and his attitude and his record," says Benjamin Schore, real estate professor at Columbia University's business school. "Sure, bankers are affected by it. They're human."

Trump also developed a reputation for hiring the best people and paying them accordingly, and for financing his projects by taking on partners.

He put his name on everything he built or bought. "The name sells," Trump once said. "It's all a game, really."

In the mid-1980s, bargaining became more subtle, and Trump increasingly paid top prices to buy and fix whatever he wanted, including the Plaza Hotel, the Eastern Airlines shuttle service and the then-unfinished Taj Mahal casino.

Trump operated on two assumptions. That the New York real estate he owned got more valuable by the day and that any other acquisitions would soar in value if adorned with his name.

Bankers happily helped. When Trump bought what became the Trump's Castle Casino from Hilton Hotels, a group of banks lent him the down payment and gave him a five-year grace period for the first repayment.

"Bankers have all this money coming in. They've got to get it out (in loans) and they've got to get it back," said Schore, explaining why banks such as Citibank and Chase Manhattan loaned to Trump so eagerly.

What Trump calls "the beat-up Trump months" began in February because of a dispute with his wife, not his bankers.

Donald and Ivana Trump were breaking up. Mrs. Trump's determination to seek a large share of her husband's assets focused attention on their real world.

Trump kept a straight face, even when he scrapped free coffee on the Trump shuttle and announced the shuttle was for sale, a year after he bought it.

"Cash is king," he announced, explaining that he wanted to be able to grab bargains as prices dropped.

The Forbes magazine reported Trump's worth, which it had estimated at \$1 billion in 1989, had sagged to about \$500 million.

Leukaemia girl out of immediate danger

NICOSIA, June 18, (AP): A 2-year-old girl suffering from leukaemia was reported out of immediate danger today after a life-saving blood transfusion ordered by the government because her parents had objected to the treatment on religious grounds.

The child, Stephanie Charalambous, was made a ward of the government welfare department on Friday, ending a week-long drama that had gripped the island over the child's fate.

Her parents, Titos and Helen

Charalambous, are Jehovah's witnesses, a fundamentalist Christian sect that forbids blood transfusion.

They snatched Stephanie from the Great Ormond Street Hospital in London last Monday to prevent a blood transfusion. Then they flew to Cyprus, evading an order that made the child a ward of a London court.

On arrival they went into hiding, until they were tracked down by police on Friday. The child received the first pint of blood early Saturday.

"Stephanie is much better. She is eating and quiet and out of immediate danger," said Dr. Helen Soteriou, a British-born cancer specialist, one of several doctors treating the girl at the Evangelistria Clinic.

Dr. Soteriou had said that when Stephanie was first taken to the clinic, she was near death.

"We are concentrating now on avoiding a relapse through continuous treatment over the next six weeks. This will be the most important and difficult period," Dr. Soteriou said.

"They are co-operating with us very well and helping in every way. Though they still don't agree about the transfusion, on the other hand, they see that we are trying to do our best and are co-operating."

Dr. Soteriou said there were no plans for additional blood transfusion at present, though this could not be ruled out in the future.

"If this proved necessary then we will do it with the authority of the welfare department," she added.

Health official raps Aids treatment

ATLANTA, June 18, (UPI): The second Aids patient to undergo an experimental blood-heating treatment "continued to improve" yesterday, but a government health official criticised the doctors for publishing an unproven procedure and dismissed claims it is a possible cure as "extraordinarily unlikely."

Tony Mascio, 38, Thursday became the second patient in four months with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome to undergo the treatment that involves heating the body to 108 degrees Fahrenheit for two hours by passing the blood through a heating apparatus similar to a dialysis machine.

The theory behind the procedure is that it heats the body beyond a temperature it can naturally attain in order to kill the virus — in the same way fever fights disease.

Mascio, who came to the doctors with a depressed white blood-cell count and Aids-related Kaposi's sarcoma lesions on internal organs, has shown a steady white-cell increase and tumor shrinkage since the operation, his doctors said.

Yesterday, the count of Mascio's disease-fighting white blood cells was up to 7,000, well within the normal range, said Patrick Shipley, an Intensive Care Unit nurse at Atlanta Hospital.

"As of 9 am, Tony continued to improve in his present condition," a statement issued by head nurse Audrey Yandel said. "He is rested, more alert and increasing his activity level and is more medically stable."

The statement said doctors planned to move Mascio from the Intensive Care Unit to a private room yesterday afternoon or this morning.

Questioned

In an interview on American television ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley" programme, Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, questioned claims that the method is a potential Aids cure.

"I haven't had the opportunity to examine the data, but I can tell you from my experience with this virus that it is extraordinarily unlikely that's the case," Fauci said. "In fact, we have some experiments to show that when you heat virus-infected cells, you can actually induce the production of a virus."

"Having said that from a scientific standpoint, I think making a big splash about a single patient that may or may not have benefited is just an example of the Aids theatre, when one thinks in terms of the public perception. I think it's unfair and inappropriate to make the kind of splash that one patient made, because it's going to give false hope to a lot of people," he said.

Dr. Kenneth Alonzo and William Logan performed the hyperthermia procedure at the small hospital in downtown Atlanta that is currently under threat of being closed for violations unrelated to the Aids treatment.

The doctors have remained cautious in their assessment of the procedure as a successful Aids treatment and are restricting their conclusions to observations made on the two patients they have treated.

"Only time will tell," Alonzo said about the procedure, previously used only as an experimental cancer treatment. "It appears to have had beneficial effects on the virus in one patient."

The condition of the first patient to undergo the blood-heating treatment, Crawford, has appeared to have improved steadily since he underwent the operation Feb 20, after coming to the doctors with full-blown Aids symptoms.

Crawford and the doctors say his Aids-related Kaposi's sarcoma cancers have virtually disappeared from his body and no sign of the virus has been detectable in his blood.

The operation took place a day after Georgia health officials said they plan to revoke the hospital's license because of numerous violations, including several patient deaths. Hospital administrators, who claim the action by the state is being motivated by the mouth-ox Aids treatment, are appealing the decision.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Nasa develops 'salad machine'

'Grow' plants in space

MOUNTAIN VIEW, California, June 18, (UPI): Astronauts on long space trips will be able to eat fresh produce with a "salad machine" being developed at Nasa's Ames Research Centre, it was reported.

Project Manager Dr. Mark Kliss said the first working model of a machine was being tested that can produce three salads per person per week for a crew of four. It can also recycle the water transpired by plants back into the nutrient delivery system and possibly produce potable water for crew use.

Kliss said the presence of plants and the ability to "cultivate" plants in space will improve crew morale by providing them with a creative outlet during their free time, much like tending a garden on earth.

"Our goal is to produce a variety of fresh salad vegetables for consumption by the crews of space station freedom and other long-duration missions," Kliss said.

In the past, he noted, one of the first things astron-

autasked for following days of eating freeze-dried or preserved foods was fresh produce.

He said garden-variety plants such as leaf lettuce, carrots, radishes, onions, sprouts, tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers are being considered for inclusion in the salad machine.

Because of the limited space, he said, some plants will be smaller than the varieties found on Earth. Tomato plants, for example, will be less than 12 inches (30 cm) high and because there is no gravity they will grow upside down or sideways.

Kliss said the plants would be grown from seeds germinated in small cassettes. Once the seeds sprout, they will be placed in the plant growth chamber containing a nutrient delivery system.

He said the activity of planting sprouts and harvesting mature plants would only require 15 to 20 minutes of an astronaut's time every few days.

BECKLEY, West Virginia: A man was sentenced to a month in jail for killing a woman's poodle and two goats with an axe after she refused to date him.

Darrell Wayne Williams, 33, had pleaded guilty Wednesday. He was also ordered to pay \$235 in restitution.

The dog and goats found mutilated August 2 belonged to Renee Maynor, a friend and neighbour of Williams. (AP)

MADISON, Wisconsin: A convicted burglar can be ordered to pay for a new burglar alarm for his victims as part of restitution, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled.

In a decision Wednesday, justices upheld a lower court order that Louis J. Heya pay \$4,000 for the purchase and installation of a burglar alarm.

Heya had been ordered to pay \$4,082 in restitution for the items he stole. He argued that he could not be ordered to pay for the alarm because it was not covered by state restitution laws.

But the high court majority said such a payment "aids the offender's

reformation by educating him or her that a burglary is not simply a taking or destruction of personal property," but also "destroys the sense of security that each person has a right to expect in his or her home."

The victimised couple had told the trial court that the Nov 13, 1987, burglary was traumatic, forcing the woman to seek medical care, so they installed the alarm system to ease their fears. (AP)

SEATTLE, Washington: He is only nine years old, but Michael Klammer already is a hot sports commodity — playing hardball on the field and at the bargaining table.

The little leaguer raised a fuss when he refused to join a team competing in a higher division after it drafted him in mid-season. League officials then tried to enforce a rule to keep the pitcher-shortstop from playing with his original team, the Phillies.

The rule still stands, said his lawyer, Paul Carey. "But Michael gets to play baseball, and that was the outcome we wanted from day one."

Attorney David Berkeley, who represented Kirkland National League, said it settled the case because a legal battle would have been too costly.

"The Little League couldn't see spending a bunch of money to see if the rule was valid," Berkeley said. The Phillies' season finale is scheduled for June 20, Michael's 10th birthday. (AP)

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma: A stunt pilot instrumental in bringing Soviet aircraft to US air shows died when his Soviet-built plane crashed in flames while performing a manoeuvre, officials said.

Tom Jones, 46, a former national champion aerobatic pilot who was directing the Aerobatics America '90 show, was killed in the crash Sunday, the show's chairman, Ted Straszek, said in a statement. "When it hit, it just exploded," said Kevin Ellis, one of thousands who saw the crash at the W.H. Rogers World Airport. "No matter how fast the plane got there, he was dead. It was just a ball of fire."

Armed man robs church during service

PHILIPPI, West Virginia, June 18, (AP): A man armed with a sawed-off shotgun entered a church and robbed the 132-member congregation as they lay on the floor, praying amid the pews.

The authorities said no one was hurt. The man, wearing a stocking mask and sunglasses, made off with at least \$500, but didn't get the faith way Baptist church's collection, according to church officials and the Barbour County sheriff's department.

The incident just outside this town in northeast West

Virginia occurred about midway through the Sunday morning service, the sheriff's department said.

The pastor's wife, Mrs. Mary Gregory, said the man came in through the church basement and walked up the steps to the back of the sanctuary.

The man had a congregation member help him collect the wallets and purses in a bag, Mrs. Gregory said. He also threatened the man helping to collect the money and the associate minister, Daniel Jager, who was praying louder than others in the congregation, she said.

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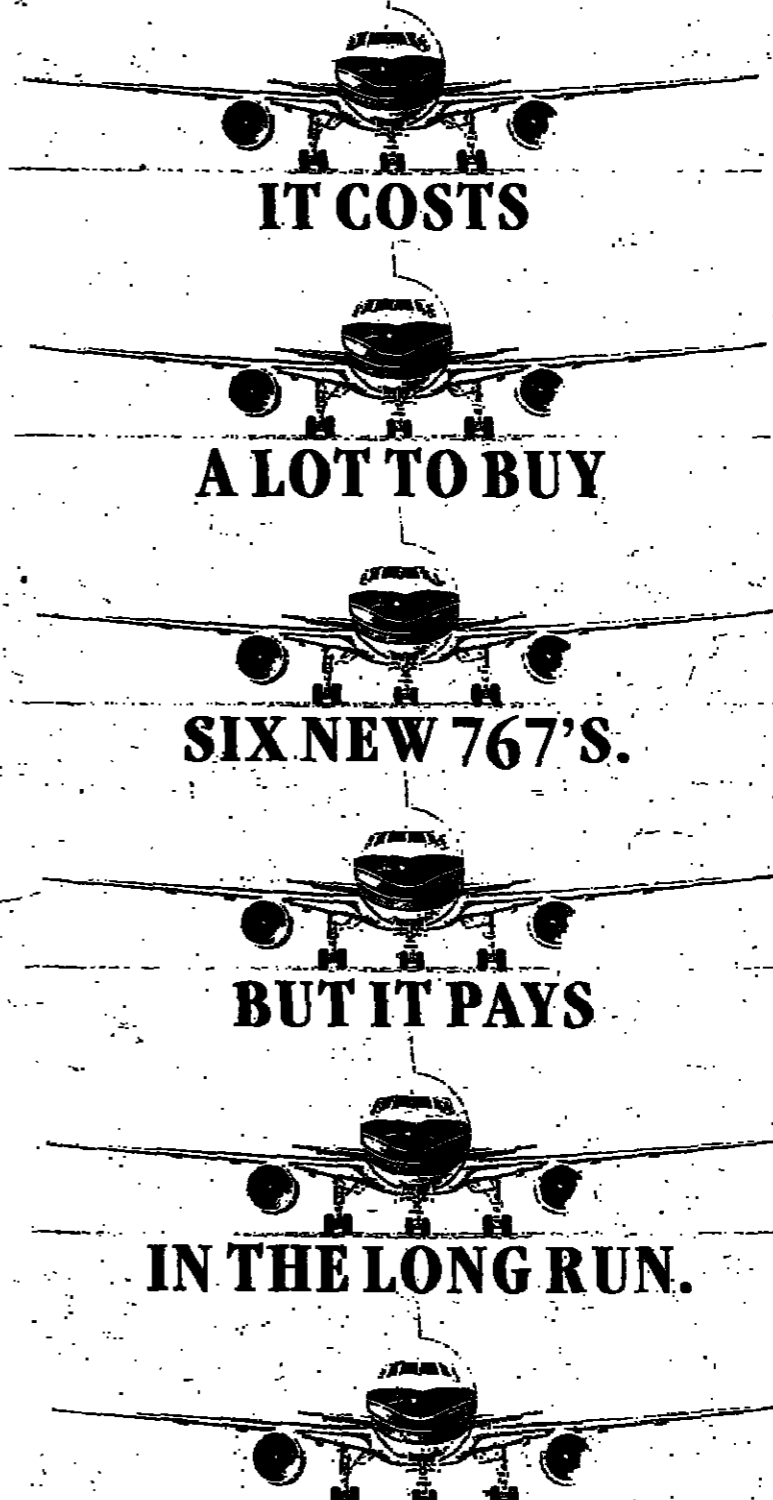
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Borja's party facing defeat

QUITO, June 18, (Reuters): Ecuadorian President Rodrigo Borja's ruling centre-left party appeared to be heading for heavy defeat in mid-term congressional elections held yesterday, a television exit poll said.

Telecentro-Canal 10 said in a news bulletin some five hours after polling stations closed that Borja's ruling Democratic Left Party looked set to lose more than half its seats in the 71-seat single-chamber parliament.

The right-wing Social Christians of former President Leon Febres Cordero were on the way to displacing the Democratic Left (ID) as the strongest political force in the new congress, Telecentro said.

The popularity of Borja, who has two more years of his presidential term to serve, has been battered by an economic crisis aggravated by falling oil prices and a large external debt. Oil exports are a major source of government income.

Interior Minister Andres Vallejo said earlier on television that the ID and the Social Christians appeared to have picked up a roughly equal number of votes.

According to the Telecentro exit poll, the Social Christians had won 17 out of the 60 seats up for election while Borja's party scraped home with only 11 seats. The opposition socialists made gains while a Christian Democrat grouping lost support.

The electoral court, appointed by Congress to supervise elections, earlier accused officials of several unnamed political parties of trying to disrupt voting by failing to turn up for duty at polling stations.

Before yesterday's elections, the ID held 30 seats in parliament while the Social Christians had only seven.

Political analysts said before the poll that if the ruling ID suffered a big setback in the polls, Borja's ability to continue governing would depend largely on the party's skills at forging a new alliance with other parties.

Government spokesman Gonzalo Ortiz has said Borja could still govern comfortably even if his party lost support.

"The government will not be weakened because a presidential regime exists in Ecuador and not a parliamentary one," he said.

Officials said about one quarter of the country's 5.2 million eligible voters had stayed away from the polls. Voting is compulsory in Ecuador.

■ **Panama:** Panama's 23-year-old first lady, who calls her newlywed husband, 51-year-old President Guillermo Endara, "a pure romantic," said yesterday she wants to be her country's first female president.

Ana Mae Diaz de Endara, who accompanied her husband to the Central American summit in Guatemala, responded to wry comments and protests over her marriage saying, "In love, there is no age difference."

Diaz de Endara inherited the duties as first lady from Endara's daughter and met the future president while he was on a hunger strike last summer to protest the military rule of Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Noriega was ousted and Endara installed as president during last December's US invasion. Endara ended a second hunger strike to protest lack of American aid following the invasion just before the wedding.

"I'm not going to lie. The truth is that yes, I would like to do that. I would like to see all women involved in politics, every woman with dreams would like to do that," Diaz de Endara said. (UPI)

■ **The majority of US soldiers** wounded in the invasion of Panama may have been hit by fire from their comrades in arms, according to Newsweek magazine.

As many as 60 per cent of the 347 US soldiers wounded in the invasion last December were probably hit by friendly fire, the magazine reported in its June 25 issue, which goes on sale today.

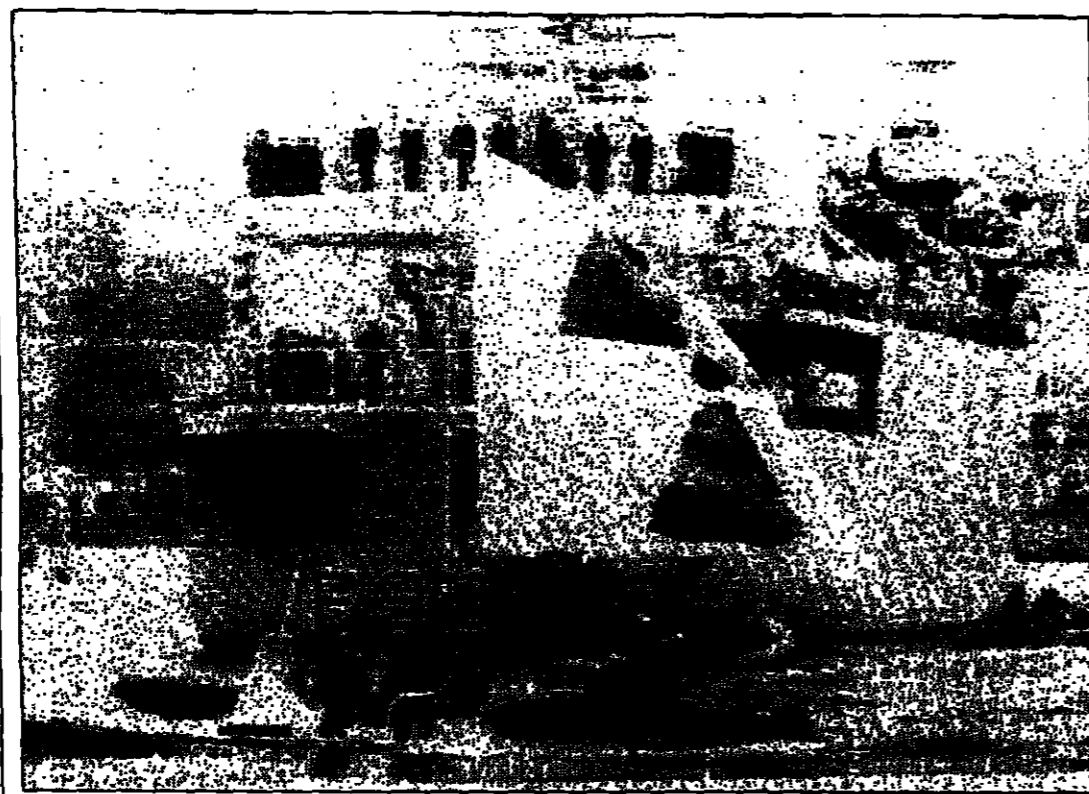
In addition, nine of the 23 US soldiers killed were accidentally slain by other US soldiers. Newsweek said, citing unidentified military sources. (AP)

■ **Colombia:** Colombian policemen living in poor areas of the cocaine capital of Medellin will be moved or transferred to protect them from hired assassins waging a vendetta against police, a police chief said yesterday.

Police operational director General Octavio Vargas Silva told El Tiempo newspaper that moving the policemen was one of a series of steps to improve police security and intelligence in Medellin, headquarters of a feared cocaine cartel. (Reuters)

Delegates converge for worldwide ozone conference

Strengthen global treaty to save the Earth's layer



Nuclear ships not welcome

Speedboats from the environmental-protection organisation Greenpeace, carrying a large flag bearing the nuclear radio-activity sign, protest the arrival of the British frigate Brilliant in Kiel Harbour, June 17. The Brilliant is suspected to carry nuclear weapons. The city of Kiel has declared that ships carrying nuclear weapons are not welcome to visit the city. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sign Centam accord

Economic growth instead of war

ANTIGUA, Guatemala, June 18, (Reuters): Central American presidents signed yesterday a wide-ranging accord praising moves towards peace and setting up mechanisms to develop the economies of the region after a decade of armed conflict.

The presidents of Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Panama presented the lengthy document at the closing ceremonies last night of the first regional summit to address economic development instead of war.

It also calls for a regional common market and sets up commissions to deal with some of Central America's most pressing economic problems such as its \$21.3 billion foreign debt and lack of regional infrastructure.

As the ceremonies ended, US Secretary of State James Baker and US Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Bernard Aronson landed in Guatemala for meetings with the presidents scheduled for today.

US officials said Baker would talk to the region's leaders about the possibility of developing an aid programme similar to that of the so-called group of 24 nations with Eastern Europe.

The newly formed group of 24 industrialised countries banded together recently to provide assistance to Poland and Hungary.

US officials declined to say whether a similar programme for Central America would mean a cut in bilateral aid from Washington to the region.

"We will listen to what (Baker) has to say. These decisions need analysis and consensus," said Honduran President Rafael Callejas after the ceremony.

El Salvador's President, Alfredo Cristiani, praised this eighth meeting of the region's leaders, three of whom were attending for the first time since they began in 1987.

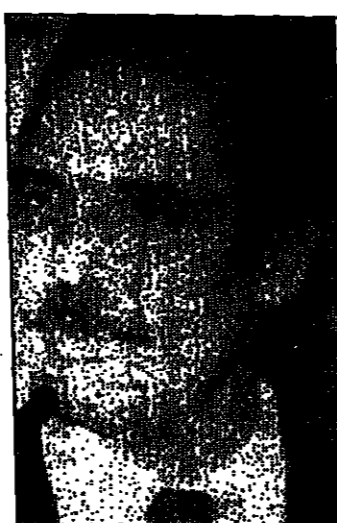
"I think there has been a true understanding of what is needed in our region. Far from there being any controversy, there has been a free flow of ideas to consolidate the process of integration," Cristiani said.

The accord calls for another summit to be held between October and December this year in Costa Rica, and sets up deadlines for the formation of commissions to deal with import taxes and other regional trade obstacles, communications systems and co-ordinate a regional agriculture and debt policies.

"It is an encouraging document."

The accord praises moves toward peace in the region such as the disarmament of Contra rebels in Nicaragua and peace talks with rebels in Guatemala and El Salvador.

The accord urges Salvadorean rebels, who are due to meet government representatives in Mexico on Tuesday for a new round of peace talks, to lay down their arms and halt violence against civilians.



Cristiani addresses the press.



Chamorro speaks during a press conference.

New prize proposed

Nobel for environment

STOCKHOLM, June 18, (AP): The foundation that finances the Nobel prizes today rebuffed a proposal from 30 laureates to create a Nobel environment prize.

The laureates, including peace prize winners Willy Brandt of West Germany and Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina, suggested that the prize be awarded in the Netherlands by a five-member committee of the Dutch parliament.

"We fear an inflation of prizes would seriously diminish the value of those already existing," said Stig Ramel, chairman of the Nobel Foundation.

The first Nobel prizes were awarded in 1901 from a trust bequeathed by Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite. He established prizes in medicine, chemistry, physics, literature and peace.

This year each prize is worth 4 million kronor (\$650,000).

A sixth prize in economic sciences was established in 1969, funded by the Bank of Sweden, and was called a Nobel memorial prize to distinguish it from the others.

But Ramel said there will be no more. The foundation has exclusive rights to the Nobel name and will not allow it to be linked to another prize, he said.

He said he had not been officially approached about the environment prize, and his information on the proposal came from Dutch and Swedish news reports.

New prizes previously were suggested in mathematics, music, architecture and engineering, Ramel said.

■ A cloud of fumes spewing from a chemical plant in Sedalia, Missouri, forced at least 2,500 people from their homes today, authorities said. Fifteen people were taken to hospitals.

WASHINGTON, June 18, (UPI): Amid widespread agreement that urgent action is needed to protect mankind, delegates from some 80 nations convene in London on Wednesday to strengthen an international treaty to save earth's eroding ozone layer.

With scientific studies clearly showing that ozone depletion is worse than previously believed, President George Bush and European leaders already have publicly committed to speeding up the global phaseout of ozone-depleting chemicals — the main business of the conference.

But there is concern about a simmering dispute over proposals to establish an international fund to help economically struggling Third

"We hope our proposal gets a very good reception at the conference in London," said Steve Hart, deputy White House press secretary. "Our proposal meets our concerns. If the developing nations say no, we're going to have to talk."

The new US proposal followed sharp criticism of the Bush administration last week by Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the United Nations Environmental Programme, who warned that only a concerted world effort could stop ozone depletion.

"Western nations cannot do it alone," he said in a speech in Washington. "We move together as a world community or not at all."

Tolba also said that with difficult negotiations on global warming scheduled to begin later this year, the ozone depletion fund was a crucial test of the international community's ability to co-operation on world environmental problems.

"London will be the first real test of whether nations are truly prepared to make the required grand bargain or whether we are still in the lip service phase," he said.

While the fund could prove a disruptive issue, it appears virtually certain that the London conference will produce a new international agreement to eliminate by the year 2000 the use of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, widely used as refrigerants, cleaning solvents and in the production of foam products.

That is twice as fast as is now called for under the Montreal Protocol, the 1987 international treaty under which 57 signatory nations and the European Economic Community pledged to roughly halve use of CFCs by 1999.

Besides the accelerated CFC phaseout, it appears likely signatory nations will update the protocol to eliminate or sharply reduce other ozone-depleting chemicals, including halons — a fire extinguishing agent — and two heavily used solvents, methyl chloroform and carbon tetrachloride.

Essential Scientists say those steps are essential in view of new atmospheric measurements indicating ozone depletion is worse than was thought in 1987 when the original protocol was signed in Montreal.

Even with the accelerated phaseout, they say, concentrations of ozone-depleting chemicals in the atmosphere are so high that the ozone layer will remain vulnerable late into the next century.

Without additional restrictions on ozone-depleting chemicals, health experts say the world risks hundreds of millions of additional cases of skin cancer and cataracts because of heightened ultraviolet radiation from the sun allowed in by the weakened ozone layer.

Researchers also have found elevated ultraviolet radiation stunts crop and forest growth and could retard reproduction of plankton, the microscopic marine organisms that are the foundation of the ocean food chain.

Beyond the need to prevent such nightmarish scenarios, the London negotiations will be important in setting the tone for upcoming international negotiations on global warming that are likely to be much more difficult.

Flood victims were not insured

SHADYSIDE, Ohio, June 18, (AP): People whose homes and belongings were swept away by a wall of water that killed at least 20 people will have to put their lives back together largely without benefit of insurance.

Few people in the stricken coal-mining and steel-making area of eastern Ohio carried flood insurance, and homeowners' insurance will not cover damage from Thursday's flood, residents and insurers said.

Rescue workers, meanwhile, held out little hope that any of the 16 people listed as missing were alive.

"It's just been too long. I don't think there's anybody alive out there. You can't swim out there that long in the Ohio River," said Chuck Vogt, a coroner's investigator.

The discovery of four more bodies Sunday brought the death toll to 20.

Authorities called off their search at nightfall, but a few volunteers kept looking from small boats equipped with portable lights. The full-scale search was to resume this morning.

Officials said Friday that 60 people were missing; some of those later were found dead, while others notified authorities that they were safe and officials learned that still more had moved out of the area.

The pipe creeks overflowed during storms that dumped more than 5 inches (12.5 cms) of rain in 31-2 hours. The flood destroyed as many as 70 houses and damaged up to 40 others.

"We didn't think we needed to have flood insurance. For what? That creek never flooded. Then this. Everybody just got wiped out," said Julia Kabanaka.

Rainwater running down hillsides had forced debris into the creeks and formed dams at bridges spanning them, Shadyside fire chief Mark Badia said.

"Eventually the bridges couldn't hold any more. The debris broke loose, and that's when we got three big gushes of water," Badia said.

The 11-year-old girl was killed when she was swept into a storm drain in the Mississippi River community of Leclaire, authorities said.

Gov Terry Branstad declared seven eastern and central counties disaster areas on Saturday, and sent the National Guard to help sandbag low-lying areas as rivers and creeks overflowed.

Heavy rains also lashed western Illinois, where 32 cars of an 88-car freight train derailed when a waterlogged embankment gave way, killing the engineer and injuring three other railway workers, officials said.

Train workers were trapped in the engine because the locomotive car they were in came to rest in water and mud, said a Sheriff's dispatcher.

In southeastern South Dakota, a tornado hit so fast Saturday that it knocked out power before warning sirens could be activated.

World nations comply with an accelerated phaseout.

The United States — alone among the major industrialised powers — initially opposed creation of the new fund as unnecessary, saying additional aid should go through existing international lending institutions such as the World Bank.

Last week, under mounting international pressure, the Bush administration announced that it would support a new fund, provided it was administered by the World Bank and did not exceed initial cost estimates, which range from \$100 million to \$260 million.



Volunteer scuba diver Bob Queen from Wheeling, West Virginia, looks inside a truck that was pulled out of the Weege Creek in Shadyside, Ohio, June 17. (Reuters wirephoto)

French tribute Broadcast irony

PARIS, June 18, (Reuters): France today marked the 50th anniversary of General Charles de Gaulle's World War Two broadcast from London calling on the French to resist Nazi German occupation.

But ironically it was the shaky voice of his wartime foe Marshal Philippe Petain that crackled out in central Paris, not the free French leader's historic call to arms of June 18, 1940.

The centrepiece of anniversary festivities was a 35-metre (110-foot) replica of a 1940s-style radio receiver, set incongruously in the middle of the Place de la Concorde, transforming the classic square into a Gaullist Disneyland.

The reddish-brown "radio" was due to broadcast De Gaulle's appeal from London in which he said "France has lost a battle, France has not lost the war."

But the appeal, made from a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) studio, was lost to posterity because the rare equipment of the day was used to record a speech by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

De Gaulle's stirring message was read out today by an actor trying, not entirely convincingly, to imitate the towering general's commanding tones.

The "radio" boomed out other newsworthy items of the period including barked orders from German occupation authorities and a recording of the June 17, 1940 statement by 84-year-old Petain announcing he was suing for peace with Hitler.

Organisers said De Gaulle's own voice was included later on in the tape when he read a second appeal made on June 22, 1940 in front of newscast cameras.

His rallying calls to fight laid the ground for the French resistance from 1940 to 1944, while Petain, a hero of World War One, became increasingly enmeshed with the Nazis.

Petain was sentenced to death for treason after the war. He died in prison in 1951 after his death sentence was commuted by De Gaulle who was a young lieutenant in Petain's regiment before the World War One.



A woman holds a poster that announces the 50th anniversary of General Charles de Gaulle's World War Two broadcast from London near a 35-metre replica of a 1940s style radio receiver at the Place de la Concorde.

French by-election

Socialist victory

VILLURBANNE, France, June 18, (Reuters): A Socialist candidate beat a rival from France's extreme right-wing National Front (NF) yesterday in a minor by-election seen as a crucial indication of voting trends nationwide.

Socialist Nathalie Gauthier won 4,766 votes, 63.29 per cent of those cast in the second round vote for the regional council of this industrial suburb in Lyons, central France.

The NF's Pierre Vial got 2,764 votes, or 36.71 per cent of ballots cast. Abstentions were over 60 per cent.

French political parties feared voters who backed mainstream conservative candidates in a first round last week might swing behind the NF, whose main platform is its openly anti-immigrant policies.

An NF breakthrough would also have boosted the public image of its fiery leader Jean-Marie Le Pen.

The election provoked heated debate in the neo-Gaullist RPR party which was eliminated in the first round.

Who's afraid of 'psychological' army coup

Fujimori shrugs off military resentment

LIMA, June 18, (Reuters): Peru's president-elect Alberto Fujimori said yesterday that some military officers disliked him because of his Japanese origin but said he had no fear of military pressure or disloyalty by the armed forces.

He said some military officers had planned a "psychological coup" to block him from winning last week's election. He did not elaborate.

Asked about rumours that nationalist navy officers resented him because of his Asian ancestry, Fujimori told Reuters in an interview: "It's a serious problem. There have been rumours about this ... it's probably a minority sector."

He said some naval officers opposed to him had planned to intervene in the election to prevent him from beating his centre-right opponent, Mario Vargas Llosa, but that the army opposed the idea.

"There are minority sectors in the navy that sought a psychological coup... in the face of the defeat suffered

by their candidate," Fujimori said.

"This had been thought of not as a military coup, but a psychological coup. But fortunately, the majority of the armed forces are very respectful of the constitution," he said.

A highly-placed government source said some diehard military supporters of Vargas Llosa, a renowned novelist, had plotted to declare him the winner in a challenge to the voting process had the election been close.

Fujimori beat Vargas Llosa by about 20 per cent points in the run-off election, according to voter exit polls. Official results will not be released until next week at the earliest.

"I have no fear of coups or pressures at all... I have been elected to govern for five years... with the support of the Peruvian people," he said in the interview at his home in the Andean foothills outside Lima.

During the tenure of outgoing president Alan Garcia, rumours of a coup cropped up from time to time at

moments of political crisis brought on by leftist guerrilla violence and economic disorder.

But the military, which last overthrew an elected government in Peru in 1968 and ruled for the next 12 years, has insisted publicly in its loyalty to democracy and there have been no unusual military manoeuvres.

Fujimori, who overcame a racist backlash by some supporters of Vargas Llosa to win the election, said his victory showed that Peru's traditional political parties had been discredited by years of failed economic policies.

There are about 70,000 Peruvians of Japanese descent out of a population of 21 million. Fujimori is the first to gain high elected office.

"My triumph shows the rejection of political parties. The people want industry, development, machinery, not empty speeches," said Fujimori, a political neophyte who surged from nowhere to finish second behind Vargas Llosa in the first round of voting in April.



Fujimori waves to supporters

LANCILLA

'If there is hell, it is being in prison knowing you're innocent'

DUBLIN, June 18, (Reuters): "If there is a hell, it is being in prison and knowing you are innocent."

Irish Gerry Conlon speaks those words with the passionate conviction of a man who should know.

He and three others were jailed in 1975 for Irish Republican Army bomb attacks in Britain that they never committed. At the age of 20, he was locked up for life.

Fifteen years later Conlon was freed.

On October 19, 1989 the convictions of the quartet, named "The Guildford Four" after the town where the bombings took place, were quashed and all four were freed after the director of public prosecutions said that police had fabricated evidence against them.

Now Conlon, an articulate and fiercely driven figure, has produced a starkly written autobiography "Proved Innocent."

"If it prickles the conscience of just one member of the British establishment, then it will have been worthwhile," he said in Dublin at the launch.

"I was on the verge of insanity. I was consumed by it," he said, recalling the depression he descended into during the ordeal he thought would never end.

Conlon, a self-confessed petty thief in his native Belfast who loved gambling and smoking marijuana, is now a committed human rights campaigner out to clear the name of his father who died in prison and six other Irishmen jailed for IRA bombings.

Giuseppe Conlon travelled to England from Belfast when Gerry was arrested. He in turn was arrested and in 1976 was convicted with six others of supplying the Guildford bombs. He died in jail, protesting his innocence.

"For me, the worst memory will always be my father dying in prison," Gerry Conlon said.

His last words to his son from a hospital bed were: "When I die I don't want you attacking no screws (prison officers). I want you to start clearing your name. My death's going to clear your name and when you get your name cleared, you clear mine."

Conlon has almost fulfilled that wish. The British government announced last

week that the convictions against his father and the six others accused of running an IRA bomb factory were unsatisfactory and should be referred to the appeal court.

Mrs Anne Maguire, her husband Patrick, their two sons, two other relatives and Giuseppe Conlon were jailed for between five and 14 years.

But the crusading Conlon cannot stop there. He has vowed to clear the names of the "Birmingham Six", convicted for 1974 pub bombings in Birmingham which killed 21 people in the IRA campaign to get Britain ousted from Northern Ireland.

Conlon, back from congressional hearings in Washington and about to fly to Copen-

hagen for a human rights conference, said "my life is in total disorder because of the promise I made to the Birmingham Six."

"We shared lots of heartaches together. If I didn't fulfil the promise I made to them, I could never live with myself."

Paul Hill, another of the Guildford Four, is equally committed to the Birmingham Six and wrote his own autobiography, "The Stolen Years," that came out the same time as Conlon's.

Conlon spent three of his 15 years in solitary confinement and his book grimly recalls his appalling loneliness: "Your cell is a bubble of silence where the only noises are the ones you make yourself. You spend so much time listening to the beat of your own

thoughts. It is like being walled in a tomb.

"For long periods your brain shuts down and you just sit looking at the wall. Then you stop noticing time go by which can be the most frightening thing of all," said Conlon, who admits he almost tipped into insanity.

In court the day his nightmare ended, Conlon wore a white carnation which he hurled into the air in jubilation when the judge uttered the word "quashed."

Bouncing to freedom outside London's Old Bailey Court, he told cheering supporters: "I have spent 15 years in prison for something I didn't do, something I knew nothing about. I watched my father die in prison for something he didn't do. He is innocent."

Goodbye dad

March 19, Monday:

My father is dying. It is my worst childhood dread, the terror in the night come true. I sit by his bed and hold his hand, trying to ward off my fears. I am failing in my duty. I cannot save him.

There is a scene in the film "Terms of Endearment" where the mother stands at the nurses station and screams for another pain shot for her terminally ill daughter. Now I, too, stand at a nurses station and say quietly, politely: "I think it is time for my dad's shot."

They look up at me, these kids, many of them young enough to be my own daughters, and say, "OK, we'll get it in a minute," and then go back to talking about last night's date, a friend's birthday party.

I feel my face contort. I have become Frankenstein. I stand there and fidget, my hands belling into fists, my eyes welling with tears. My eyelids are already so swollen I can hardly bear to touch them. I say again, between clenched teeth: "I'm sorry to trouble you, but it is time for my dad's shot. Now. Now. Now."

My breath gets shorter. My voice rises to a screech. I turn into a monster in that antiseptic hallway. I hate myself for being this way, but I seem to have no control over my rude behaviour. It seems my only way to fight back against a medical system that has my whole family in its stranglehold of tubes, wires, needles, thumping noises, offending smells, and cadre of strangers invading at their convenience our tiny cubicle of pain and grief.

Cancer has transformed me, molded me into a 42-year-old daughter whose only aim in life is to help her father die as comfortably, and with as much dignity, as I can provide.

Three months ago my father was on the golf links, an active 68-year-old retired pilot with a wide circle of friends, a keen intellect, a comfortable life. We were so pleased because he'd shed much of the extra weight he'd carried around on his back since his 40s. He was proud of himself as his pants sizes kept shrinking. Christmas brought new wardrobes. But my mother was having secret fears she revealed in the darkened room we often share together with the quiet man in the bed: Too much weight, too fast. But never mind. Worry about it tomorrow. The old saw is true: We see only what we want to see.

There was no cancer in our family, ever. As a journalist, I read the statistics. I kept up with the developments, but until Jan 7, when the dreaded phone call came, I thought of cancer only with a detached, clinical interest. Now the disease invades my heart, my mind, my very soul.

My father has become a statistic. Lung cancer. But where is the primary tumour?

"We may never find it," said his oncologist, a father of five daughters. He has just a few more answers than I, the layman. The killer cell, the rogue that launched the insidious assault on my father, will always elude the cat scans, mris, X-rays, blood tests, and all the other diagnostic invasions inflicted on the silent man in the bed.

We will never know how it began. But we know, with terrible finality, how it will end.

March 23-24, Friday and Saturday:

Like Hansel and Gretel's crumbs scattered through the forest, my father's hospital room is littered with reminders of the long journey we have travelled together.

Books and magazines for when he could see; the television for when he cared, as he passionately once did, about the revolution in Romania and the deficit and the verdict in the trial of the Exxon Valdez captain; lotions for when he still complained about aching muscles, juice for when he could still sip through a straw.

Finally, the last supper: I sugar packet, I salt substitute packet; strained cream of chicken soup, 2 milks, coke, vanilla ice-cream cup, cranberry juice, coffee. The tray was set aside, untouched.

It is nearly over. The nurses, every one a father's daughter, increasingly care for us as well as him. They have become allies, friends, the only constant in a situation out of control. They never pass me now without a touch, a pat, a hug. They have done this before. They know how close we are to saying farewell — to each other, to him.

My father's doctors call in from restaurants, their own beds at 3 am we are consulting hourly now. I am making decisions I never knew anyone had to make, making them with a cold detachment that stuns me. Yes, increase the Demerol. No, it isn't working, so yes, I think we should switch to morphine. Increase the morphine. More, more.

I hear myself issuing opinions, but I keep looking at the still figure under the blue blanket, half waiting for him to sit up and contradict me.

He was always in charge. I never had a say in what we did, where we went as a family. He was the leader of the band, the chief of the clan, the only voice of authority. When did the torch pass? I do not want it. But I cannot give it back. My father and I are alone in the middle of the night. I am half on the bed, cradling him like the piano, telling him all my secrets, all my hopes. I am racing the clock on the wall, my new enemy, trying to cram the dialogue of my entire life into the last precious hours I will have with my daddy.

I sob, I laugh. I talk about the dog of my youth who blew to us in a tornado and learned to play second base. I remind him of the time the car ate the Christmas goose. I thank him for the blue bicycle, for teaching me to drive, for

■ Sunday is a day to remember fathers with phone calls, fies and greeting cards. Associated Press regional reporter Tad Bartimus remembers her dad, James L. Bartimus, with a love story as she recounts his final days.

sending me to college, for waving goodbye with a smile on his face when I boarded the plane for Vietnam, for all the money spent on phone calls to find me halfway round the world. I thank him for all that extra champagne at my wedding, and for all the steaks he barbecued for my journalism gypsies who've dropped in from Beirut and Bombay over the years.

I feel closer that night to my dad than I've ever felt before. Occasionally his eyes open, and I look deep into them and whisper in his ear: "I love you" because everybody says no one knows what he hears, what he thinks. Those three words become my mantra, chanted over and over and over 'til dawn.

I also tell him how proud of him I was, and am, how his exploits as a fighter pilot reflected on us, made us feel special. I reassure him of my happiness in my marriage. I promise to look out for mother, to love his grandsons forever, to treasure every snapshot, every scrap of advice. I pledge to be good. I promise to remember.

And then I give him permission to let go. I say goodbye. I feel as if I am dying, too. "You can go now, daddy. It's OK. Honest. I love you. You can go now, daddy."

I carry on a one-sided conversation for more than 12 hours. There is no other sound in the room except my horse voice. The only tube left is the morphine drip. The nurses glide in and out. There is pain in their eyes. The young doctor who has become my lifeline, my greatest source of strength, stands at the foot of the bed.

"When?" I ask. "I don't know," he replies. "There are tears in his eyes."

My father picks his own time, as he has his whole life. He waits for my mother and my brother. At high noon, the storm over, the blinding sun of spring flooding the window, he opens his eyes. He speaks: "Love." He says, as they hold him in their arms.

And then he is gone.

March 27, Tuesday:

Despite the request for no flowers, the church smells like a garden. The formal photograph propped on the table in front of the altar shows a smiling young man in a 50-mission hat and a dashing army air corps trench coat. A white silk scarf is draped over the edge. A velvet board displays the medals awarded for bravery, daring and endurance. Two freshly picked hyacinths from a neighbour's yard complete the memorial tableau.

The church is full. Many faces are unknown to me; others are mileposts of my years. I take a deep breath and pray one last time for strength and composure, and deliver his eulogy.

"The newspaper obituary," I began, "gives you the frame surrounding the portrait of the man. This is the true picture."

"He loved the song of a single bird in the morning, the sight of a chevron of wild geese at dusk. He was sentimental and loved cards that rhymed...."

"He could untangle any fishing line and fix any toy.... He and mother danced together like Fred and Ginger.... He taught his children that only people mattered, not things...."

At the end, I borrowed the words of a friend who'd walked this path before:

"Daddy," she wrote, "just follow the heading Peter Pan gave Wendy Darling. As they surveyed the stars spread across the night sky, he showed her the way like you have shown me."

"Second to the right, then straight on 'til morning. Have a wonderful flight. We'll all meet you there."

And then the pianist broke into a resounding rendition of "Wild Blue Yonder" and my duty was done. I had used the only true gift I had, the ability to string words together, to say farewell. I believe he heard me.

March 29, Thursday:

I was in the dream house my parents built when they retired. Stumbling around in the dark, I reached into my open suitcase for a bathrobe. My hand touched something that hadn't been there an hour before. Turning on the light, I found an intricate paper airplane folded out of a dietician's form from the hospital.

Even though it was late I called my husband, who'd flown back home that day. I thanked him for leaving me the wonderful airplane. After a long pause at the other end of the line, he told me, as one would speak to a slow-witted child, that he hadn't made me a paper airplane.

The next morning I showed my mother. She had no idea where it came from. I am sure there is a logical explanation. I just haven't found it. Until I do, I've put the delicate little plane away in a box in my hope chest, along with my most precious treasures. When I feel inconsolable, I get out the box and sail the beautifully proportioned craft through the air. It makes me feel better.

"Take my hand," wrote the friend who is a year ahead of me. "We'll walk together on the twisting road back." She exhorted me to "look for the signs." And so I took the little paper airplane to be the first one.



Belgian police arrest

Belgian investigator examines a deep hole that concealed an arms cache in the woods where police on June 17 arrested a woman, Donna Macguire (picture left) suspected Irish Republican Army member. Netherlands' police later arrested one of her two male companions. (Reuters wirephoto)



Belgian, Dutch hold IRA suspects

BRUSSELS, June 18, (Reuters): Three Irish guerrilla suspects were held today by Dutch and Belgian police investigating IRA violence in continental Europe and a hunt was on for a fourth.

The roundup began on Saturday, when Belgian police arrested a woman, identified as wanted IRA suspect Donna Macguire, in woodland near Hoogstraten, eastern Belgium.

Two male companions escaped, but Dutch police said later both had been captured, one soon afterwards and the other today.

Maguire, first of the trio to be arrested, has been charged in Belgium with criminal association and use of a false passport.

Today, Belgian police named the two arrested IRA suspects held in the Netherlands — and said they were looking for another man.

A police spokesman in the town of Turnhout said the man arrested on Saturday was Gerard Hartie, 31, and the one picked up today was Michael Collins, 26.

A fourth IRA suspect was being searched for, he added.

Collins was found near the Netherlands border still wearing handcuffs after a weekend manhunt across both Belgium and the Netherlands.

Brussels public prosecutor Marc van Nieuwenegem said police had arrested him in the southern Dutch town of Chaam near the Belgian border. "We've arrested the man we've been looking for," he said.

About 20 minutes after the arrest, police tried to stop a car with British number plates on the same street in Chaam.

Instead of stopping, the car accelerated away at high speed. The vehicle was later found abandoned at the edge of woods.

Some 40 police officers were searching for the driver with the help of a helicopter, a police spokesman said.

Maguire, 23, was detained on Saturday after arousing the suspicions of a Belgian family in woods close to the Dutch border, but two men with her fled, sparking the weekend manhunt.

Belgian police said today that Maguire, wanted in West Germany and now under close guard in a prison cell, was refusing to answer questions about a false passport and a small arsenal of weapons found buried in the woods.

EEC political union

LUXEMBOURG, June 18, (AP): Most foreign ministers of the European Economic Community said today a special conference should be held late this year to draw up a plan for a political union of the trading bloc, officials said.

The ministers gave their backing during a discussion of a paper on political union that will be presented next week to leaders of the 12 community nations.

No vote was taken on holding a conference on political union. The final decision rests with the community leaders.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has strongly opposed radical plans not only for a political merger of the dozen nations but also for an economic and monetary union.

She fears the plans will require member governments to give up sovereignty to new community institutions.

However, British officials say their government will participate in any special meetings.

"We don't think the timing is right, but we will go along with it," said one official, demanding anonymity.

At a one-day summit in late April, the community leaders committed themselves to forming closer political ties but were at odds over what the final result would be.

A political merger would likely mean a stronger central government and legislature and more co-ordination in foreign policy matters. Whether it would ultimately lead to a united states of Europe is unclear.

At their meeting, the foreign ministers agreed there should be links between the political conference and a separate one on economic and monetary union, which already is scheduled to begin in mid-December in Rome.

A Dutch source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the ministers felt the two gatherings should open, if not on the same day, as close together as possible. He said there was no need for them to end at the same time.

The negotiating sessions are needed to make changes in the community's founding treaty of Rome to set up any new agencies.

The foreign ministers' support for a special conference was made known during a discussion of a five-page paper setting out questions that had to be answered to form a political union.

The paper is the starting point for what will be lengthy talks in the coming months about how to forge closer political ties among the nations.

The document said the overall goal is to strengthen the ability of the member nations "to act in the areas of their common interests."

"The unity and coherence of its policies and actions should be ensured through strong and democratic institutions," it said.

Among the questions raised were whether new powers should be transferred to the community from individual governments and how the "notion of community citizenship" is to be dealt with.

The drive to form closer ties was sparked by the upheavals late last year in Eastern Europe. Community officials feel Western Europe must offer strength and stability at a time of uncertainty on the other half of the continent.

The trading bloc already is pushing to lift by late 1992 barriers to the free flow of money, people, goods and services among the dozen nations.

Intelligence Subcommittee on oversight and evaluation. "I see cuts in those areas that primarily support military functions."

Covert action — the area that has brought the agency its greatest notoriety — comprises only about 3 percent of the CIA's budget. The bulk of the agency's work involves analysing voluminous data from various sources.

Practising their own form of glasnost, CIA officials and some members of Congress these days speak forthrightly about unique opportunities in 1990 for re-evaluating operations and goals, as well as the daunting challenges.

But they insist intelligence needs will not diminish, they'll simply be different.

"The era of the cloak and dagger may be over, but the cloaks are likely to multiply and become even more pervasive in their effort to procure military, industrial and commercial secrets," said Sen. William Cohen, the ranking Republican Party member on the Senate intelligence panel.

"It is time to face new enemies — drugs, terrorism, poverty, brush fire wars and pollution of our planet," he said.

French mission re-opens in Kabul

NEW DELHI, June 18, (AP): A French diplomat has left for Kabul to re-open his country's embassy in Afghanistan, making France the first country to do so following the withdrawal of Soviet troops last year. A French official said today.

Charge D'Affaires Thierry Bernadac left for Kabul yesterday from New Delhi, said an officer at the French embassy in New Delhi.

The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in February 1989 triggered the closure of many diplomatic missions on the grounds of safety. At the time, Western diplomats, particularly Americans, predicted that the Soviet-backed government would fall within weeks to US-supported Muslim rebels.

But Afghan President Najibullah has held on, fighting off rebel assaults and numerous military uprisings, most recently a coup attempt by former Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai in March.

The French decision to re-open its embassy, announced in January, was welcomed by Najibullah and criticised by US-backed rebel forces. Italy has also said it was considering reopening its embassy.

■ Two unidentified gunmen fired automatic weapons at the director of a Western relief group targeted by Muslim fundamentalists, slightly wounding him, police said today.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack on the outskirts of Peshawar, the third in less than two months on Shelter Now International.

Police said the gunmen opened fire on Saturday on a jeep carrying Thor Armstrong, the agency's director.

A four-day rebel attack on a hydroelectric power station in eastern Afghanistan killed eight people, caused serious damage and blacked out the majority of Jalalabad, Afghan rebel sources said today.

Star of Turandot, Turner dies at 98

LONDON, June 18, (AP): Dame Eva Turner, a dramatic soprano of extraordinary range and power and a memorable star of Puccini's "Turandot," died at the age of 98.

Miss Turner, who had suffered a broken hip three months ago, died Saturday at Devonshire Hospital in London, said Katherine Morgan, the singer's executor.

Miss Turner was one of the British sopranos to achieve stardom in Europe.

"Her voice of enormous proportions in its prime, ranging from G to top D, and her generous personality were admirably suited to the dramatic soprano roles in Verdi and Wagner," the late Harold Rosenthal, longtime editor of "Opera" magazine, wrote in a profile for the Royal Opera House.

Will CIA be able to adjust?

End of cold war era prompts self-analysis

WASHINGTON, June 18, (AP): The CIA is refocusing its operations to look at issues such as international economic competitiveness, terrorism and narcotics, but some experts say the agency is moving too slowly to keep up with changes in the post-cold war world.

The collapse of the Berlin Wall and the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact have tempered the great US-Soviet rivalry and prompted the CIA to undertake a wide-ranging self-analysis to determine what it should be doing and where it should be going.

"The transformation of our intelligence priorities is beginning," Sen. David Boren, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, wrote in an opinion piece in Sunday's edition of the New York Times.

"The congressional oversight committees are working with the CIA to develop an innovative, long-term strategy that sheds cold war priorities and focuses on language and cultural skills and economic expertise," Boren wrote.

At CIA's complex in the Bucolic Woods overlooking the Potomac river just outside Washington, a senior intelligence official said there was "great debate" under way about the

agency's future. "There is more intellectual excitement in this building than there has been in years," the official said in an interview last week. He asked not to be identified by name.

At the same time, the official said the CIA was navigating in "choppy seas" that make predicting a difficult job, particularly when foreigners themselves are unclear about their future. For instance, he said no one had a crystal ball to see that Romania and Bulgaria would choose communist governments in their elections.

The agency, meantime, nervously is eyeing budget cuts being made by Congress in the Defence Department, where most of the money for intelligence is put, the official said.

The intelligence budget, which includes money for the CIA's sister agencies such as the Defence Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, was estimated to be about \$28 billion in fiscal year 1990. The intelligence agencies want to avoid any proportional hit when defence is pared.

"The intelligence community will be scrutinised," said Representative David McCurdy, chairman of the House

Intelligence Subcommittee on oversight and evaluation. "I see cuts in those areas that primarily support military functions."

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A group of women singing about police-instigated rape and torture of suspects held in Japan's police cells, staged a demo in Tokyo's bustling shopping district. (Reuter file photo)

Indo-Nepal feud ends

Border trade resumes

BHAIKRAHAWA, Nepal, June 18. (Reuters): India and Nepal ended a bitter trade dispute today as trucks laden with foodgrains chugged through this historic border outpost for the first time in 15 months.

Nepalese Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai braved the heat and dust of Bhairahawa on the Terai plain to celebrate the end of a feud that had brought severe hardship to his landlocked Himalayan country.

"If the people of Nepal suffered economically, I can say the people of India suffered emotionally," Indian Ambassador Lieutenant-General Kumar Sinha told thousands of Nepalis and Indians at the Nepalese customs post 200 km (125 miles) southwest of Kathmandu.

Bhairahawa was one of 13 border posts which India closed on March 23, 1989, when trade treaties expired amid a row over how much control New Delhi should have over Nepal's imports.

Only two border crossings were left open, leaving poorer Nepalese struggling to pay inflated prices for scarce essentials such as cooking oil.

Their discontent helped fuel two months of

democracy protests that forced Nepal's King Birendra to sack his hardline government in April and let Bhattarai take office with a mandate to curb the monarchy's powers and hold multi-party elections.

Bhattarai reached an informal agreement in New Delhi this month to reopen all the border posts until an elected Nepalese government could negotiate a new trade accord.

Bhairahawa was decked with Nepalese and Indian flags and red banners proclaiming "long live India-Nepal friendship" in festivities marking the simultaneous reopening of all the trading posts along the 1,700 km (1,050 mile) border.

The town of 50,000 people was chosen mainly because nearly a quarter of the annual 4.65 billion Nepalese rupees (\$155 million) worth of trade between India and Nepal normally flows through it.

It is near the town of Lumbini, which Buddhists revere as the birthplace of Buddha, and has for centuries served as a trading crossroads between the northern plains of India and Himalayan Nepal and Tibet.

Jiang defends policies

Europe reforms a setback, no end to communism

BEIJING, June 18. (Reuters): Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin has told a group of American college students that China sees massive political changes in Eastern Europe not as the collapse of communism but only as a setback in its development.

Jiang, in a letter to nine US college students quoted today, said "drastic" political changes in Eastern Europe did not signify the collapse of communism — only a temporary check.

"The changes in East Europe only indicate a setback in the course of socialist development," he said. The China Daily newspaper carried the text of Jiang's letter written on June 11.

wrote to him on March 8. A copy of their letter was not printed.

The party leader told the students the advantages of Sino-US ties outweighed their drawbacks and both countries should take care their relations do not backslide.

Economic relations between the United States, "the biggest developed country," and China, "the biggest developing country," were beneficial to both nations, he said.

"People with foresight have realised that the interests we share are far more important than our differences," he said.

If the United States does not abide by principles of mutual non-interference, then relations "might suffer setbacks or even move backward," he warned.

Ronald Peterson, chairman of the university's department of political science, dismissed the letter as propaganda.

"They talk about friendship, but friendship is impossible without frankness, and frankness is impossible without a free press," he said.

"We expected little more than a general response... a form letter," said Valerie O'Regan, a spokeswoman for the students who wrote the letter.

Washington's ties with Beijing have been severely strained since troops suppressed the mass demonstrations in Beijing last June, killing hundreds, if not thousands, of people.

Western news media, Jiang said, "covered last year's turmoil and rebellion in China in a way which completely deviated from the facts and they concocted a lot of false, sensational stories."

Ties with Washington have since shown a slight improvement. In late May, Washington agreed to renew China's "most favoured nation" trading status that guarantees low tariffs on Chinese goods entering the United States.

Washington remains concerned over Beijing's human rights record and the two sides appear no closer to resolving one sore point — the sheltering of wanted dissident Fang Lizhi and his wife by the US embassy in Beijing.

The highest-ranking Chinese official to defect in protest of his government's crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators has been stripped of his seat in the national legislature.

Yesterday's edition of the Shanghai Xinhua evening news, seen in Beijing today, said the city congress standing committee decided to recall Zhao Fusan as delegate to the National People's Congress.

Zhao had been one of the congress' leading members. He also was vice-president of the Chinese academy of social sciences and a Chinese delegate to Unesco.

He defected in France last summer after the Chinese Army opened fire on student-led demonstrators in Beijing. Zhao told the executive committee of the Unesco that he did not approve of his government's repressive measures. (AP)

A boatload of Americans will visit China this week in the first US cruise trip since what a Chinese tourism official calls "the unforeseen incident."

Pearl Cruises, which offers an 18-day trip to China and Hong Kong, is resuming its "China Dynasty" tours with a sold-out, 480-passenger group.

"There are a lot of people who want to visit China," said Robert S. Iversen, the line's president who will lead the tour on his fourth visit to China.

"We're excited about it," said Dr Sam Patterson of Memphis, Tennessee. He and his wife will be on the tour that leaves San Francisco on Thursday.

In an apparent reference to what Beijing has learned from the transformation of Eastern Europe, he cited a Chinese maxim: "A fall in the pit, a gain in your wit."

Beijing's communist leaders have strengthened observance of orthodox Marxist principles after crushing student pro-democracy demonstrations last year and since popular revolutions overthrew most communist governments in Eastern Europe last year.

Jiang's letter to political science students at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California, was in reply to one they

Cambodia guerrillas evacuate Kompong

BANGKOK, June 18. (UPI): A US-backed Cambodian resistance group said today its forces captured the first provincial capital to fall in the 11-year-old conflict, and then quickly abandoned it to a government counterattack.

Ek Sereyuth, spokesman for the National Army of Independent Cambodia, which is loyal to former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, said 1,450 of the group's troops captured Kompong Thom, about 100 miles (160 km) north of Phnom Penh, in a four-pronged attack yesterday.

But he said the Vietnamese-backed government began a counterattack the same day and the lightly armed resistance group retreated from the city.

"Due to the large civilian population living in the city and for security reasons, our forces evacuated and withdrew to surrounding positions," he said.

Ek Sereyuth said the guerrillas destroyed four Soviet-supplied T-54 tanks, three trucks and two pieces of artillery in the raid.

Even though the Sihanoukist troops failed to hold the town for long, they scored a military and psychological victory, he said.

Kompong Thom is a large town that controls access to the province capitals of Preah Vihear and Siem Reap to the north.

"Now most of the northwest is cut off. The only way to supply the area is by air and river," the spokesman said.

He said the Vietnamese, who have insisted all their troops left Cambodia in September, would have to help mount an airlift to beleaguered garrisons in the northwest because the Phnom Penh government lacked the needed pilots and planes.

So far, no other provincial capitals have been captured in the resistance war that followed Vietnam's 1979 invasion of Cambodia.

US officials have said the two non-communist groups in the resistance coalition receive only "non-lethal aid" — uniforms, radios, food and medical supplies — from the United States under a congressionally approved aid package. The groups get military assistance from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and China, resistance sources have said.

\$1m Malaysia computer fraud

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18. (AP): A young bank executive broke into his bank's computer security system and stole more than 4 million ringgit (\$1.48 million) in Malaysia's biggest case ever of computer fraud, police said today.

The executive attracted suspicion when he bought a red Lamborghini, three Porsches and a Mercedes Benz, the New Straits Times daily newspaper said, citing police and banking sources. It said the arrest was made last Tuesday.

Police confirmed that they had seized luxury cars the 24-year-old man had purchased. His identity was not disclosed.

Shamsuri Arshad, deputy director of the Criminal Investigations Department of the federal police, said bank employees and other potential witnesses were being interviewed.



Boat escapes foiled

A special anti-refugee Vietnamese flotilla has stopped 15 boatloads of boat people from escaping the Haiphong area — a favourite jumping-off place for voyages to Hong Kong, Hanoi radio reported.

The radio said the fourth flotilla was set up last year off Haiphong harbour to patrol for escapees as well as to provide security for sight-seeing tours, the radio said in a broadcast Friday. A translation of the Vietnamese language report was made available Monday.

The radio said the flotilla, with more than 10 boats, was reorganised with new officers after a flood of refugees succeeded in escaping from the Haiphong area and reaching Hong Kong.

Above Huang a 25-year-old Vietnamese refugee cradles her baby in the safety of Indonesia's Galang camp June 15.

Muslim clerics to face treason trial

Thai police hunt for radicals

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18. (Kuna): Some of the fugitive religious leaders wanted by Thai authorities for allegedly instigating a riot in the southern province of Pattani early this month could be charged with treason, according to a report reaching here yesterday.

The report quoted Pol. Lt. Col. Damrong Ritthidej, Yala province's police superintendent as saying that police had intensified efforts to track down about a dozen religious leaders charged with organising a demonstration at the Kruze mosque in the southern province Pattani on June 3, at which seditious speeches were made and two police officers attacked.

But Damrong said he did not know whether the religious radicals were still in jungle hideouts in Thailand or had crossed the border into another country.

He said provincial authorities and police, with the help of the

fourth army region, had managed to keep religious tensions in Yala and neighbouring Pattani province under control.

The report said more than 6,000 radicals demonstrated at the 300-year-old Kruze mosque, located about five kilometres from downtown Pattani, to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini on June 3. The mosque is a designated historical site under the care of the fine arts department in Bangkok.

The report also quoted Central Investigation Bureau Assistant Commissioner Pol. Maj. Kasem Saengmit, who heads the police panel investigating the case as saying that warrants had been issued for the arrest of Sorayuth Sakulnasantisart and two other persons identified only as Mae-Ae and Dolo, who have been charged with assaulting Pattani deputy police chief Lt. Col Prasert Sasadiphan.

The only home for ageing expats

HONG KONG, June 18. (Reuters): Off a quiet leafy lane in Hong Kong's Kowloon Tong residential district, 36 elderly men and women potter about a large mansion, each one providing a glimpse of Far Eastern history.

A visitor, wandering the narrow corridors and small rooms, can talk to a Russian from Vladivostok who ran a restaurant in Hong Kong during the Japanese occupation.

Or a voluble Parisian who picked up abandoned pets on the streets of Shanghai, then fled the communists in China with nothing but \$10 in her pocket.

White Russians, Chinese traders and a French journalist all live in the China coast community, Hong Kong's only home for ageing expatriates and Chinese accustomed to an Occidental way of life.

"I never saw my mother again. All I know is that she had 14 children who knows who the fathers were," said 85-year-old Zema Harveson, who left the Far East port of Vladivostok with an older sister when she was a child.

She says the Japanese forces occupying Hong Kong during World War Two treated her and her sister well. The pair were running a Russian restaurant and shop.

"I have always wanted to go to Europe. To go back home to Russia, but always something stopped me and now I have become an old woman," she said in her room, where framed black and white photographs compete for space with half-eaten biscuits, soiled clothes and bedclothes.

"I had two children, a boy and a girl, but they both died, my husband was a crook and the two Filipinos I adopted have gone back to their country."

Pensioners who speak English, have spent most or all of their lives in the Far East and lead "Western lifestyles" are eligible for admission to the community, said Barbara Nightingale, who runs the home.

The average age of residents is 80, but they range from 61 to 94. The home opened in 1979.

There is a long waiting list. Nightingale said interviews with herself to about the death of a widely gesticulating white Russian named Suzannah.

"As more and more people emigrate from Hong Kong, some of them leave their parents behind because they're too old to travel or because they won't want to leave," Nightingale said.

In the common room, a group of residents sit silently in two rows opposite each other, their faces expressionless.

"The ones who sit in her don't talk much," Nightingale whispered.

But other residents were more gregarious.

Madame Renee Papp taught French literature at the Sino-French University in Beijing, saved animals on the streets of Shanghai and wrote for the city's French newspaper Journal de Shanghai.

"Life was better then," she said. "Yes, there are many poor and dying in Shanghai, but then there were many different people to meet and you lived rather than always running like people do now."

Her Chinese husband, whom she had followed to Beijing in 1930, disappeared in war against Japan in the 1940s. Her second husband, a Hungarian sea captain, also vanished.

She avoided internment by the Japanese when they occupied Shanghai, and after World War Two stayed in the city until the Communist takeover in 1949.

"Helping animals abandoned on the street (caught typhus and in the hospital the doctor said to me: 'You better get out while you can,'" she said.

"I got to the border with Hong Kong on a train with 16 nuns in the same compartment. There I had to empty my pockets except for \$10 before I could cross."

"I have no friends or relatives now in France or in Hong Kong. They're all dead — and I can't tell you how old I am."

The future of the China coast community's future after the British colony of Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule in 1997 is not clear.

Rebels attack ferry in Burma: 17 injured

RANGOON, June 18. (AP): Guerrillas of the Karen ethnic minority attacked a ferry in eastern Burma, wounding 17 passengers, the state-owned Working People's daily said today.

The paper said 20 guerrillas attacked the double-decker ferry on the Salween river in Karen state, in an area about 160 kms (100 miles) north of Rangoon. They retreated when security personnel aboard the ferry fired back, it said.

Japan asked to invest in Mexico

TOKYO, June 18. (Agencies): Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari had an audience with the Japanese imperial couple at the moated Imperial Palace and later called on Japan to play a greater role in the international community, especially in Latin America.

Salinas, on his first official visit to Japan, urged Japan to increase investment in Mexico, which can provide a strategic base for Japanese enterprises interested in the Latin American market.

"Japan can and should play a more active role in the new configuration of world balances in keeping with the magnitude of its weight in the economic world," he said in a speech before a gathering of politicians, government officials and business leaders.

He said "Mexico views Japan as offering a great opportunity for mutual benefits."

Japan's expanding role in aiding development in Latin America and reconstruction in Eastern Europe should be backed by a greater presence in Latin America, he added.

Salinas invited more investment from Japan, saying new regulations introduced since his inauguration in December 1988 provide for simplified investment procedures and open up new areas of investment.

Earlier in the day, Salinas rode to the moated Imperial Palace for an audience and lunch with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

Salinas was accompanied by his wife Cecilia Ocelli de Salinas and two sons and a daughter, palace officials said.

Despite the US multi-billion dollar military budget, it seeks to obtain the latest in Japan's war arsenal, including the "Kiko" missile, the look alike of the US-made Stinger, according to military experts in Tokyo today.

Just say 'nai'

Ishihara on muscle

TOKYO, June 18. (Kuna): Japan should have the courage to say no to the US and it is time for Japan to start flexing its muscle, a Japanese politician said today.

Contributing an article in a local newspaper, former Transport Minister Shintaro Ishihara said the Japan-US security treaty should be dramatically changed from a one-sided arrangement that supports only the US strategic objectives to one that enables Japan to provide for its own defence and pursue its own interests.

One division of the US forces stationed in Japan is devoted to the defence of Japanese territories, while the rest are assigned to defend the area west of Hawaii running all the way to Cape Town, South Africa, Ishihara pointed out.

"I do not really think that the Japanese people are very interested in defending Australia, New Zealand and Africa," he said.

He referred to a Pentagon document which lists the Soviet Union as Enemy No. 1, China No. 2, and Japan No. 3, saying "we are expected to foot the bill so America will, supposedly,

save us from our selves."

Already, Japan is shouldering 40 per cent of the necessary expenses of maintaining American forces stationed in Japan, amounting to \$55,000 per soldier annually.

He called for the return of the large US air base in Yokota on the outskirts of Tokyo to relieve the heavy congestion at Narita and Haneda airports.

"If I were prime minister of Japan, I would demand the return of Yokota immediately, defend our own coastlines with high-speed cruisers and be able to close Japan's three most vital sea straits in the event of foreign attack," Ishihara suggested.

"I think it is time for Japan to consider the possibility of playing our microchip card in order to bring the US to its senses rather than arrogantly and arbitrarily constraining our capacity for initiative in the world," he went on to say.

"Under present arrangements, if a developing country wants aid from Japan, it must first go to Washington for approval and then Washington call on us," Ishihara added.



Foster pictured chasing a group of wild horses around the grasslands of inner Mongolia June 9. (Reuter file photo)

Biker's stunts on Great Wall

"I'm having best time I've ever had"

BEIJING, June 18. (AP): American cyclist Kevin Foster performed bicycle stunts yesterday on the Great Wall outside Beijing after riding 1,065 miles (1,714 kms) on or alongside the ancient monument from its starting point in western China.

"You work the uphill and pray for a good downhill," the 30-year-old Foster said, grinning, as he set out on a steep stretch that Chinese tourists were having trouble just walking up.

"Pretty risky," exclaimed one middle-aged Chinese man as he watched Foster turn around and whizz back down on his custom-built mountain bike.

Foster, a part-time actor from Ojai, California, said he has encountered plenty of risks on his month-long odys-

sey along the wall, including dust storms and portions of wall that suddenly crumbled beneath him.

But after years of effort to win Chinese government approval for his adventure, Foster said, "I'm having the best time I've ever had."

He started out May 11 at the wall's westernmost pass, Jiayuguan, 1,525 kms (945 miles) from Beijing. The project bogged down for more than a week when the jeep that was to accompany him failed to show up and he was forced to fly back to the capital.

He restarted on May 28 and bicycled until June 8, when he had to dismount and travel by jeep and train to Beijing to avoid passing through a closed military area.

He plans to set out on the last, 300-

km (190-mile) stretch to the coast, a distance of 300-kms (190-miles). He will be the first person to bicycle any substantial distance on top of the more than 2,000-year-old wall, which China's emperors originally built to keep out foreigners.

Altogether, Foster said he's bicycled 1,065 miles (1,704 kms) in 19 days, three-fourths of that on top of the wall.

He's been accompanied by a driver and jeep carrying supplies and two young Chinese staffers from his host organisation, the Institute of Geography, who have taken turns bicycling with him.

Local residents greeted Foster, who wears his long hair in a pony tail and has a moustache, with quizzical stares, he said.

LANCILLA

20 years imprisonment

Congressman convicted of gunsmuggling

MANILA, June 18, (UPI): A criminal court today convicted Congressman Nicanor de Guzman, a powerful political ally of President Corason Aquino's brother, of gunsmuggling and sentenced him to 17 to 20 years imprisonment.

De Guzman, the second member of the House of Representatives to be convicted of a criminal offense while in office, said he would appeal the decision of trial Judge Fermin Martin.

Martin found De Guzman and his business associate, Ponciano Datu, guilty of attempting to smuggle 314 firearms on his return Sept 5 at the Manila airport from a US visit. Both were sentenced to serve a prison term ranging from 17 to 20 years.

De Guzman, a close ally of Aquino's brother, Congressman Cojuangco, appeared at the reading of the decision. He repeated previous denials he owned the weapons.

Martin granted De Guzman a 180,000 peso (\$7,820) bail for his temporary freedom while the case is on appeal.

Speaker pro-tempore Antonio Cuenco said he expected the ethics committee to move swiftly to expel De Guzman from the House.

"I don't think the ethics committee will wait for the final outcome of the case," Cuenco said. "An appeal could take years and it could make the action of the committee moot."

De Guzman, who represents Nueva Ecija province, was suspended for 60 days by the lower chamber on Sept 12 in connection with the gunsmuggling case, which came amid a public outcry over shenanigans committed by members of the House and the Senate.

Manila official killed in ambush

MANILA, June 18, (UPI): Gunmen fatally shot a district councilman in an ambush today as he drove from his suburban Quezon city home to his office, sparking a firefight that wounded two people, police said.

Killed in his jeep on congressional road was Oscar Cancio, 44, who also worked as a civilian agent of the military anti-narcotics command.

Police said the seven gunmen later commandeered a minibus, but a soldier walking nearby opened fire with his M-16 rifle on the fleeing gunmen armed with 45-calibre pistols, wounding one of them and the bus driver.

The identity of the wounded gunman was not immediately known and police could not say if the attackers belonged to the Communist New People's Army.

More than 70 slayings of lawmen and civilians in the capital this year have been blamed on the 19,000-strong NPA, which has been waging a 21-year rebellion.

Troops captured eight suspected communist rebels believed responsible for killing a suburban police chief in April 1988, military sources said today.

An officer at the Philippine Constabulary, who requested anonymity said the eight were arrested Saturday in Manila and were being questioned on their alleged involvement in the slaying of Col Hermunio Taylo.

The officer said an official announcement of the arrest was being withheld in the hope that police would be able to capture more rebels. (AP)

Five men shot and killed a Korean student after an argument at a bar, police said today.

Police said they were looking for five men who shot Man Sung Hwang, 28, three times in the head at dawn yesterday just outside a beer house in suburban Quezon city.

Police said Hwang's conversation with an attractive waitress sparked an argument with the five men. Police said the five followed the Korean as he left the bar and shot him on the street.

A spokesman at the Korean embassy confirmed the killing but declined to give details.



Wildcat strikes hit Manila

Railway workers and transport drivers staged wildcat strikes June 18, stranding thousands of commuters but failing to paralyse the capital.

A left-wing group of Jeepney (mini-bus) drivers claiming a membership of 25,000 refused to ply four routes in the capital, protesting strict enforcement of traffic rules and an increase in fines of traffic violations.

Transport department spokesman Jose Ricalfrante said 5,000 railway employees demanding pay raises walked off the job in the morning, but agreed to lift their picket lines after government negotiators promised to meet their demands.

Jeepney strikers roamed some streets calling on other drivers to join the strike but no violence was reported. Thousands of commuters were stranded for hours in some key streets. (Reuter wirephoto)



Alexander Libov, leader of the Bulgarian socialist and former Communist Party (left) and Andrei Lukinov (right) Bulgarian Prime Minister on their way to place some flowers at the mausoleum of former communist leader Georgi Dimitrov to mark his 100th birthday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ryzhkov may get another top post

MOSCOW, June 18, (Reuter): Embattled Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov was officially suggested today as a possible candidate for another top post, strengthening speculation he might soon step down.

Tass news agency cited party Central Committee secretary Andrei Girenko as saying Ryzhkov, 60, was a possible contender for a post of first secretary of a new Russian Federation Communist Party, expected to be founded this week.

The party is being formed under the auspices of the Central Soviet Communist Party.

Ryzhkov has been under strong political pressure because of his radical economic programme, including food price rises, which has met with great popular resistance. Russian populist politician Boris Yeltsin has called for the resignation of the Ryzhkov government.

Girenko mentioned other possible candidates for the post including Interior Minister Vadim Bakstin and party secretary Yuri Masayenkov.

He said there had been no mention of a candidacy by newly-elected Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, chief critic and political foe of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is also party general secretary.

The public mood of Ryzhkov's name by such a high-ranking official lent weight to speculation that he might step down soon as steward of the troubled economy.

Ryzhkov complained earlier this year about being under intense political fire in drawing up a reform plan to match Gorbachev's vision of a socialist economy under free-market conditions.

Gorbachev faces a crucial test this week when radicals and conservatives battle for control of a Communist Party which both sides say has led the Soviet Union to the verge of catastrophe.

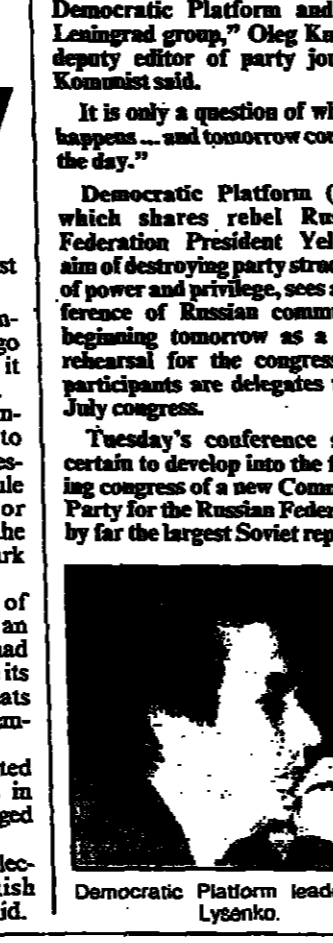
While the once monolithic party wrangles over its future, the danger grows that it will be overtaken by mounting public anger over empty shelves in the shops.

"It now seems inevitable there's going to be a clash between Democratic Platform and the Leninist group," Oleg Kuprin, deputy editor of party journal Kommunist said.

It is only a question of when it happens... and tomorrow could be the day.

Democratic Platform (DP), which shares rebel Russian Federation President Yeltsin's aim of destroying party structures of power and privilege, sees a collapse of Russian communists beginning tomorrow as a dress rehearsal for the congress. All participants are delegates to the July congress.

Tuesday's conference seems certain to develop into the founding congress of a new Communist Party for the Russian Federation, by far the largest Soviet republic.



Democratic Platform leader Ivan Lyshenko.

East Germany flirts with unification plan

Genscher, Shevardnadze discuss Nato role

EAST BERLIN, June 18, (Agencies): East Germany's Parliament has given the world a brief, heart-stopping look at how unification with West Germany probably will come about.

Meeting in a rare Sunday session to mark the 37th anniversary of an East German uprising against Soviet domination, lawmakers overwhelmingly voted to put the final question of German unification on that day's agenda.

But after impassioned debate, lawmakers decided to put off the historic vote that would automatically result in immediate unification.

East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere said he would not support a vote on unification Sunday because of major questions that still need to be addressed before the two Germans are united.

De Maiziere also referred to the uprising, in which an estimated 300 people were killed, as one of the earliest attempts to unify a nation cut in two by World War II.

He portrayed the parliament's action to put unification on the agenda as a preview to the world of how German unity will come about.



A wounded Romanian demonstrator shouts anti-government slogans in central Bucharest June 17. (Reuter wirephoto)

"It appears therefore on this day good and right to clearly acknowledge German unity and to describe the way that this will be done," he said in remarks that were greeted with a standing ovation.

Lawmakers then voted by an overwhelming show of hands to postpone the vote on unification, which is likely to come in the months ahead.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other top West German officials were in the audience at the Parliament session for what, at one point, appeared to be a history-making session.

The question lawmakers voted to put up for discussion was whether to support article 23 of the West German constitution, under which the country could dissolve its nationhood and become a part of West Germany.

The article was written after World War II to allow individual sections of disputed German territory to decide whether to become a part of post-war West Germany.

Chancellor Kohl has been pushing harder than anyone for German unity, but even his government seemed stunned Sunday by East Germany's near decision to annex itself immediately to West Germany.

"This has caught everyone by surprise. No one expected this," said a West German government spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Kohl unveiled a 10-point programme last November that laid the foundations for unity; he orchestrated the coming July 2 economic merger; and more recently, he has been pushing for the election of a single German government as early as December.

Kohl has clearly stated he wants formal unity to occur this year. But at the same time he has cautiously avoided making it appear as if he is trying to make decisions for the East German government.

East Germany's Parliament wiped the remaining vestiges of socialism from its constitution on Sunday during a chaotic session in which deputies were forced to vote with their feet.

Clashes that would have blocked East Germany's adoption of market capitalism under economic union with West Germany, due on July 1, were struck from the constitution by a vote of 269 to 83 with four abstentions.

After a tumultuous debate interrupted repeatedly to allow party factions to plot strategy in private, deputy speaker Reinhard Hoeppner put the issue to a vote — normally a show of hands.

The foreign ministers of West Germany and the Soviet Union met today in Muenster, site of a 1648 treaty allowing the Germans to manage their foreign affairs, to discuss a united Germany's planned membership of Nato.

End street protest

Romanian parliament demands

BUCHAREST, June 18, (Agencies): Romania's new parliament voted today to end an anti-government street protest in central Bucharest that sprang up again after being crushed by police only five days ago.

Legislators acted swiftly when protesters again challenged Romania's rulers by blocking a central Bucharest boulevard, flashpoint of political violence last week.

In a gesture of defiance comparable to the appearance of the "Goddess of Democracy" statue at the height of last year's ill-fated student demonstrations in Beijing, demonstrators took control of a one-block stretch of highway forcibly cleared by police just five days ago.

Their action effectively challenged the NSF government to risk more damage to its international reputation by using force again or seem weak to supporters by tolerating the blockade.

Earlier, a government statement appealed to students and intellectuals "to set the bounds between the battle of ideas and violent street actions" in order to avoid a repetition of the last week's "regrettable acts."

The statement said the government would strengthen the forces of order after defects in the way army and police in dealing with an attempted "neo-fascist-type coup d'etat" — a reference to last week's anti-government protests.

The demonstrators maintain that the NSF is too much like the Communist Party of executed Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and it won 85 per cent voter support at presidential elections last month through bribes, misinformation and ignorance.

The Students League said at a news conference that students and faculty at the University of Bucharest would go on strike starting tomorrow to protest recent violence directed against them.

Reporters were shown one student whose back was covered with bruises and others with bandaged heads and braces on broken noses.

Mihai Georgiu, the league's vice president, said of the miners' violence: "President Iliescu should assume full responsibility... for the crimes they committed."

Iliescu's strong-arm tactics have cost his government US and Western European aid.

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Second Soviet jail riot

MOSCOW, June 18, (Reuter): An inmate was killed when police and soldiers stormed a jail in central Russia to suppress the second Soviet prison riot in a week. Tass news agency reported today.

Police and Interior Ministry troops stormed Chelyabinsk prison in the Ural mountains yesterday after more than 1,000 inmates went on a rampage and took six guards hostage, the agency said.

One inmate was killed, two were wounded, and several police officers were hurt.

"Criminals armed with home-made knives and sticks went on the rampage and several attempted to escape. This prompted prison authorities to storm the jail," Tass said. "The prison riot stopped only when troops opened fire."

The riot occurred four days after inmates rebelled at a prison in the Ukrainian city of Dnepropetrovsk, breaking locks, setting fires and raiding the canteen.

In both cases, prisoners were protesting against poor living conditions.

Officials said two inmates were killed when guards opened fire during the Dnepropetrovsk riot. The Ukrainian press agency Rukh put the death toll at five and said some Dnepropetrovsk inmates were still barricaded inside the compound today.

Socialists clinch absolute majority

Bulgaria's first free election

SOFIA, June 18, (AP): Former communists clinched a parliamentary majority from runoffs in Bulgaria's first free elections in 58 years, state radio reported today.

The Socialist Party, which until April was the Communist Party, captured 39 of 81 seats at stake yesterday and now has 211 in the 400-seat legislative body, based on unofficial final results.

The main opposition alliance, the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), won 37 seats in the run-offs for a total of 144, according to Bulgarian radio.

The Socialists' victory is the first for a reformed communist party in East bloc elections, although in Romania a party with former communists in its leadership won elections last month.

It is a vote of confidence.

Prime Minister Andrei Lukinov told reporters amid jubilation in the streets of Sofia among supporters of his Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP).

"The party has regained confidence but it has a long way to go to regain the moral authority it had years ago," Lukinov said.

Old men and women, members of a generation still loyal to the revamped communists despite 35 years of totalitarian rule under former leader Todor Zhivkov, wept and cheered as the BSP cleared the 200-seat mark needed for a clear win.

The opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), an alliance of 16 groups which had only seven months to prepare its election campaign, won 132 seats in the 400-seat National Assembly.

Foreign monitors reported some electoral irregularities in the election but generally judged it to be fair.

"Bulgaria has returned to electoral democracy," British observer Sir Dudley Smith said.

Asylum in Italy

Formal request

BENEVENTO, Italy, June 18, (Reuter): Fifty Romanian World Cup soccer supporters made formal requests for political asylum in Italy today, officials said.

They were the first batch of a group of at least 64 Romanian fans who have said they want to remain in Italy because of violence in Bucharest last week.

At least four others have made requests for asylum in Naples. The 50 were summoned to police headquarters in Benevento to make formal written requests after telling Italian officials of their wish to stay here. They include 35 who spoke to police in Rome on Saturday and were told to make applications in Benevento because it is near where they are staying.

A government commission in Rome will decide whether to accept the requests but officials said this process could take some time.

At least 80 other Romanians have asked police in southern Italy to extend their stay permits beyond the end of the World Cup on July 8.

More than 2,000 Romanian soccer fans are staying in the town of Telesse, near Benevento, and in other areas around Naples.

Many are on free trips paid by local town councils in a gesture of solidarity after last December's overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and are staying with families in the area.

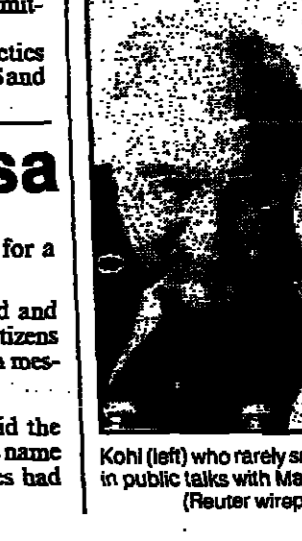
Bonn rules out Honecker charges

WEST BERLIN, June 18, (AP): West Germany's chief prosecutor today ruled out for now any criminal charges against former East German leader Erich Honecker, despite assertions that his hard-line government harboured leftist terrorists.

West Germans have been infuriated by disclosures that some of its top fugitives were sheltered by the now-outcast communists.

Those disclosures came to light with the recent capture of seven alleged members of the Red Army Faction terrorist gang.

Eduard Lintner, a leading conservative lawmaker in Bonn, has called for Honecker's extradition to face terrorist-related charges in West Germany.



Kohl (left) who rarely smokes his pipe in public talks with Maiziere June 18. (Reuter wirephoto)

Poland prime minister scores victory in power struggle with Walesa

WARSAW, June 18, (Reuter): Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki scored a victory yesterday in his power struggle with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa by winning a pledge from Poland's provincial citizens committees to form a pro-government party.

After weeks of mounting differences, the contest between the two men erupted into the open when Mazowiecki asked the 49 provincial committees, formed in 1989 as Solidarity's electoral arm, to forge a national movement to support his government.

He told committee chairmen at a meeting in Parliament attended by prominent Solidarity politicians that the government wanted the committees to be "a huge political base" for building democracy.

Ignoring opposition from Walesa, the committee leaders accepted Mazowiecki's proposal and voted to meet on July 1 to discuss setting up a national federation with its own structures and political programme.

The decision meant that the committees, which helped Solidarity win huge victories in parliamentary elections last year and in last month's local elections, will become a pro-government party likely to dominate Polish politics.

"The government calls on you to become its political support... the movement can and should be the basic force of a huge all-Poland alliance for democracy," Mazowiecki said.

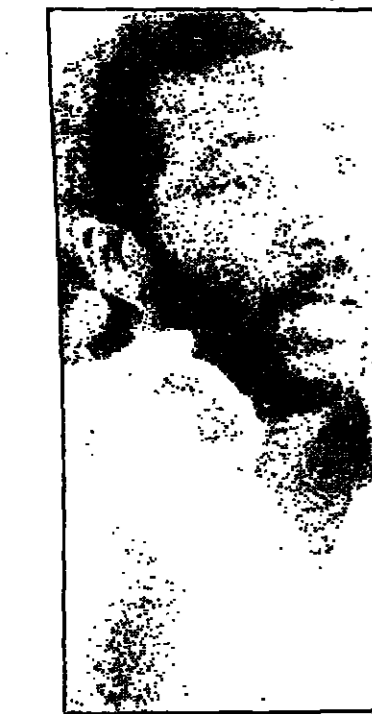
Solidarity founder Walesa, who has no role in the government and has criticised the pace of Mazowiecki's political reforms, had warned that the citizens committees could become the basis for a new post-communist power monopoly.

"The citizens committees should be broad and open and not become a single party. The citizens movement is nobody's property," he said in a message to the meeting.

Mazowiecki supporters at the meeting said the movement would be unable to use Solidarity's name but said the name of the citizens committees had already proved a vote-winner.



Two US embassy officials lift an American child evacuee from a plane arriving in Abidjan from Monrovia, June 17 (Reuters wirephoto)



Taylor shown at his headquarters in Liberia.

US accused of backing Liberian rebels

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone, June 18. (AP) — A Liberian government delegate accused the United States yesterday of supporting the rebels who have waged a six-month insurrection to overthrow the government of President Samuel Doe.

After the breakdown on Saturday of peace talks aimed at ending the war, James Tarpeh, a Liberian government representative at the talks in Freetown, Sierra Leone, claimed the United States had switched support from its former ally President Doe and said Washington was aiming to see the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) form a government.

"The opinion among the people on this side is that the United States is backing (rebel leader) Charles Taylor," Tarpeh said. "It is mostly diplomatic support and that is very important."

US diplomatic sources conceded that support for Doe was practically non-existent in political circles. But they said there still is genuine concern that the rebels are supported by Libya. US military advisers were sent to the battlefield with the armed forces of Liberia for three weeks in January because of concern at Libya backing the insurgents.

"In Washington it is impossible to support Doe," said one US diplomat. "It is a public relations disaster. The atmosphere is poisoned against him. Perhaps the 1989 human rights report (on Liberia) was an improvement. But the 1990 one is going to be a shock."

Latests: The Liberian government today lifted a ban on opposition parties and announced an amnesty for rebel fighters advancing on Monrovia.

Peace talks between the government and rebel leader Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) broke up without an agreement yesterday, with promises to meet again in a week.

Microbe experiment continues

Oil-eating microbes spread over part of an oil slick from the supertanker Mega Borg appear to have done their job, but officials said they launched another experiment to make sure.

On Friday, about 100 pounds (45 kilograms) of hungry bacteria were spread over a 1-acre (0.4-hectare) patch of the slick from the crippled Norwegian tanker that exploded June 8 in the Gulf of Mexico.

It was the first use of the process called bioremediation on open waters.

An aircraft flyover of the area marked by a buoy showed little oil in the treated waters Sunday, state officials said. (AP)

Drug divers arrested: Two skin divers were arrested in Miami after a daring attempt to retrieve 112 kg (250 pounds) of smuggled marijuana in metal boxes bolted to the bottom of a cruise ship, the US coast guard said on Sunday.

"This is the first time I've ever seen smugglers try to attach drugs to a cruise ship in the six years I've been working in Miami," said petty officer Luis Diaz of the coast guard in Miami, who added that the smuggling technique was commonplace on smaller craft. (Reuters)

Atlantis hauled to launch pad: The shuttle Atlantis was slowly hauled to the launch pad Monday for blastoff around July 13 on a secret military mission, replacing the crippled shuttle Columbia in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's revised flight schedule.

Atlantis, mounted atop a squat mobile launch platform and carried by a powerful crawler-transporter, began the 6.5-hour, 3.5-mile (5.5-km) trip from the vehicle assembly building to launch pad 39A at 11:16 pm Sunday (03:16 GMT Monday), about 45 minutes ahead of schedule.

Once the shuttle reached the oceanic stand, engineers planned to spend the day hooking up fuel lines, electrical cables and hydraulic systems to ready the ship for blastoff. (UPI)

Avianca crash: The Avianca jet that ran out of fuel and crashed in Long Island in January was delayed partly because federal controllers accepted too many jets that rainy night, a published report said Sunday.

The report in New York Newsday came as the National Transportation Safety Board prepared to open hearings in New York this week into the crash, which killed 73 people.

Avianca Flight 052, which originated in Medellin, Colombia, and was bound for John F. Kennedy International Airport, was placed into a holding pattern for more than an hour over New York before it ran out of fuel and slammed into a Long Island hillside.

The newspaper said more than 12 hours before the 9:34 pm crash, a Kennedy air traffic supervisor recommended the flow of incoming planes be slowed to about 22 per hour — about one-third the number of planes handled on a clear day. (UPI)

UK immigration policy criticised: The British Home Office immigration department is accused in a highly critical report of incompetence and "inexcusable" inefficiency in handling the big backlog of applications for British citizenship, it was revealed yesterday.

The report, leaked to the independent newspaper, is drawn up by the Conservative-dominated House of Commons Home Affairs Committee and it will be published on Wednesday.

It condemned the department for failing to provide an adequate service, despite repeated warnings and said that this is the cause of unnecessary suffering to thousands of foreign visitors and settlers, the paper said.

The study is a "severe embarrassment to British Home Secretary David Waddington," it added. (Kuna)

UK survey on housework: Almost half of all men in the UK believe housework is a woman's job, according to a survey published yesterday.

And only 22 per cent of women say their husbands do their share automatically.

The survey for "Woman Magazine" found that 49 per cent of women believed their husbands considered housework a woman's job and the men's favourite jobs were washing/drying up, shopping, vacuuming and ironing.

The survey indicated that women in Wales do the most housework. (Kuna)

New computer for air safety: A new computer system was unveiled in London yesterday aimed at improving congestion at Europe's busiest air traffic control centre.

The £23-million system at a centre in west London, is designed to help air traffic controllers safely handle the ever-increasing volume of aircraft using the southern section of Britain.

Officially inaugurated today by the Princess Royal, it has been in operation since April and the UK Civil Aviation Authority claims it has already "proved its reliability and provided speedier responses to air traffic controllers." (Kuna)

Chernobyl hero fails to improve: The prognosis for Soviet hero Anatoly Gribchenko, who exposed himself to massive doses of radiation sealing the burning Chernobyl nuclear reactor, was dim on Sunday in his fight against leukemia.

Susan Edmunds, a spokeswoman at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre, said Gribchenko remained in critical condition and showed no signs of improvement.

The 53-year-old pilot has been on a respirator for the past 3-1/2 days after he developed a fever and had difficulty breathing. Gribchenko underwent surgery on Tuesday to remove a fungal infection on his right lung. (UPI)

Albanian premier to visit Turkey: Albanian Prime Minister Adil Canani will pay an official visit to Turkey next week in the first formal trip abroad by a prime minister of the communist Balkan state, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

A ministry statement said Canani would arrive next Monday on a four-day visit that would include talks with Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut. (Reuters)



Yoyogi Seminar

Preparatory school staff operate their numerous screens in the control centre of Japan's famous Yoyogi Seminar to transmit via satellite to 18 sister schools nationwide a lesson in Japanese. The school now offers young people throughout the country a chance to take lessons from their noted teachers as competition among prep schools becomes fiercer. (Reuters wirephoto)

Thieves steal \$1.26m gold, cash: Four robbers, three of them armed with guns, escaped with \$1.26 million US in one of Malaysia's biggest robberies, it was reported Monday.

The Star and New Straits Times dailies said the robbery Sunday night at the airport in Kota Bharu, 400 kilometres (240 miles) northeast of Kuala Lumpur, occurred when two goldsmiths arriving from the capital with 70 gold bars were selling their bullion to two other goldsmiths in a car park. (AP)

Boy prostitutes sent to shelter: Fourteen Thai boys who offered homosexual sex to foreign tourists in Bangkok hotels have been sent to a home run by the public welfare department.

The boys, aged between eight and 15, were detained by police at the weekend in the city's main red-light district, an Education Ministry official said on Monday.

They charged 300 baht (\$12) for a sex session. (Reuters)

Pickle cans contain opium: Narcotics agents in Singapore have cracked an India-based drug syndicate which tried to smuggle a huge haul of opium and heroin into Singapore in cans that purportedly contained pickles, pastries and milk, officials said Monday.

Narcotics officers arrested five men and seized 66 pounds (30 km) of opium and 2.6 pounds (1.1 kg) of heroin in the biggest seizure of opium so far this year. Under an amended drug law, the death penalty is mandatory for those convicted of trafficking, manufacturing, importing or exporting more than 1.2 kg of opium. (UPI)

Students bomb lawyers office: About 70 students firebombed a prosecutor's office in a southern province early Monday, protesting the arrest of fellow students for illegal demonstrations, news reports said in Seoul.

The Dong-A Ilbo, one of the most influential dailies in Korea, said the attack erupted at about 5 am in Seoncheon 185 miles (300 km) south of Seoul. (UPI)

Japan to study Soviet reforms: Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Monday that the future of economic reforms in the Soviet Union remains "unclear and unconfirmed," and added that Japan will be cautious when studying the economic support for the Soviet reform programme, prestroke.

Speaking at the committee on security in the parliament (DIET), Nakayama said that Japan will carefully study the problems related to the Soviet economic reforms with the participants in the upcoming summit of the seven industrial countries, due to be held in Houston.

He added that Japan, before it reviews its policy toward supporting the prestroke, will observe the outcome of the Soviet Communist Party meeting, scheduled for July 2.

The talks in Houston summit will focus on the support programme to the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Latin American countries, he added. (Kuna)

Peace talks resume: Representatives of Angola's Marxist government and Jose Savimbi's US-backed Unita rebels met during the weekend for a second round of peace talks aimed at ending their country's 15-year civil war, diplomats and newspapers said Monday.

According to the Lisbon daily Diario de Noticias, the delegations headed by Antonio Mito for the government and Gen. Paulo Alicerces Mingo for Unita, met on Saturday and Sunday in Oeiras on the outskirts of Lisbon for the second round of Portuguese-mediated talks in two months. The paper said contacts might continue Monday. (AP)

Herds flee timber men: Herds of elephants fleeing noise caused by timber workers' heavy machinery and chainsaws have destroyed many farms in southern Gabon in recent weeks, the Gabon news agency reported on Monday.

The agency said many people in the Tchibanga region are facing severe food shortages, and have demanded that the government chase the elephants away.

Four-fifths of this central African nation is covered by forest, providing thousands of elephants with sanctuary from the slaughter by ivory hunters elsewhere on the continent.

Last year the government reinforced its campaign to deter elephant poachers. (AP)

Mandela vows to continue struggle

Keep up pressure; ANC leader urges Canada

OTTAWA, June 18. (AP) — South Africa's struggle for liberty and equality cannot be stifled, Nelson Mandela told Canada's Parliament today.

The South African anti-apartheid activist told a joint session of the Commons and the Senate that the fight for racial equality has gone on in his country for 300 years and will continue.

"An entire people has known what it is to recognise the fact of defeat while rejecting the demand that it surrender," he said.

The black nationalist leader arrived in Ottawa yesterday from Britain.

He called on Canadians to keep up economic and political pressure on the South African government to force change in its racial policies, saying apartheid continues to "ravage our country."

Mandela urged the world to maintain economic sanctions against South Africa.

"Any move at this stage toward lifting or lessening international pressure would create a situation in which the white minority would feel comfortable with the minimal changes which have taken place," he said.

1962 arrest, jailing of Mandela

US envoy leaked details

JOHANNESBURG, June 18. (UPI) — A newspaper reported today a US diplomat based in South Africa and not a CIA agent set up the 1962 arrest and subsequent 27-year incarceration of black leader Nelson Mandela.

The Afrikaans daily Beeld, refuting a report in the Johannesburg Sunday Times and following earlier claims in the United States of CIA involvement, quoted anonymous "senior police officers" denying the agency was directly involved in the arrest.

On the even of Mandela's US visit, beginning in New York Wednesday, the sources said an unnamed staffer at the US embassy in Pretoria leaked details of the fugitive anti-apartheid activist's

movements to a non-commissioned security policeman who was a "good friend."

"The diplomat told the policeman certain things in conversation which led (the policeman) to Mandela's trail," a senior officer told Beeld.

That information resulted in Mandela's arrest at a roadblock, organised by the now-retired security policeman, the night of Aug. 5, 1962, the officer said.

The Sunday Times named CIA agent Millard Shirley — in the 1960s reportedly head of covert operations in Southern Africa — as the agent who engineered Mandela's arrest, quoting retired South African police spy Gerard Ludi.



Mandela (right), and Mulroney make their way through a crowd of onlookers following Mandela's arrival in Ottawa, June 17. (Reuters wirephoto)

Americans against apartheid

Mandela visit

NY gets ready

WASHINGTON, June 18. (AP) — Some march, some lobby. Others talk with their pocketbooks. A rap music group cuts a song with the message "don't buy gold jewellery" from South Africa.

Americans have weighed the arguments on South Africa's racially separate society, and many have lodged protests, large and small, against apartheid.

"Do Americans care about sanctions? I'd say so when you have 80 cities, 25 states and 15 countries that have passed binding measures restricting their investments in or their purchases in companies that do business in South Africa," says Jim Casen of the American Committee on Africa, a New York-based anti-apartheid group.

Westchester, New York, recently pulled \$40 million out of Citibank to protest that company's rescheduling of South Africa's debt. Another recent example: The State of New Jersey sold \$4.2 billion in securities of companies involved in South Africa.

By all accounts, the US sanctions have taken an economic and psychological toll on South Africa. This week, black leader Nelson Mandela tours the United States with this message: Please keep up the economic pressure.

"International trade sanctions alone have probably resulted in a 2 billion loss annually to the

NEW YORK, June 18. (AP) — When Nelson Mandela steps off a borrowed private jet on Wednesday, the man many regard as a modern civil rights hero will be greeted by New York City at its best — and its worst.

There will be a ticker-tape parade and traffic jams; sober diplomatic meetings and pushy media circuits; adoring crowds and hostile protesters; speeches of sweeping scope and T-shirt proclamations.

For the deputy leader of the African National Congress, released in February after 27 years in South African jails, it will be his first view of the United States.

And for the city, disrupted at times by its own racial, ethnic, political and economic animosities, it could be a rare moment of self-appraisal.

The fact that this is the first stop gives the average New Yorker a great sense of pride," said Jean Owensby, a local spokeswoman for Mandela's national tour. "It's a time to come together, this is it."

In a city so big, togetherness is a relative thing. A Bronx rabbi, Avi Weiss, announced that he would hold a prayer vigil to protest Mandela's friendly relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

But planning for the visit has mainly drawn co-operation. There are the small details, such as the Trans Lux Corp.'s donation of 100 miles (160 kilometres) of ticker tape. And there are the major efforts, such as producer Bill Graham's volunteer work organising a concert and rally for 60,000 people at Yankee stadium.

Like Mandela, "I came out of a suppressed society," said Graham, a Jew born in Berlin. "There is something about freedom of expression that's always meant a great deal to me, and a great deal to all of us."

South African economy. Although fewer than 1 per cent of South Africans are employed by US companies in South Africa, the sanctions sent the white government a signal that it "could no longer kid itself that United States would come down on its side," he said.

American blacks have played a major role behind the US sanctions policy. "The black community has been a key... and they have become a firm base of the anti-apartheid movement," Casen said.

Black politicians, in concert with peace groups, labour and college students, have spearheaded grassroots campaigns against US business in South Africa.

"There's an element of making hay while he can," said Millard Arnold, an analyst with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"His martyr quality will not last forever. This is a time when his message will be listened to more than at any other time," he said.

There was also an element of damage control. De Klerk has also been on his travels seeking to reap diplomatic benefits from his reforms.

The grey-haired, 71-year-old deputy president of the African National Congress said he believes that South African President F.W. de Klerk and his government are honestly committed to change.

South Africa needs a new constitution that will dismantle the oppressive apartheid system, which is set up to keep races strictly separate, Mandela added.

He said there should be a constitutional assembly elected to draft such a constitution.

"That will ensure that we use democratic means in our search for a democratic result."

He called for a partnership among all races to create a new future and strengthen society and the economy.

His visit is part of a six-week tour of 14 nations in Africa, Europe and North America that began June 6. He will begin an eight-city US visit on Wednesday.

Mandela was greeted yesterday by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Well-wishers stood by waving the green, black and yellow flag of the African National Congress, which is spearheading the fight to give South Africa's blacks a voice in national affairs.

Canada imposed economic and political sanctions against South Africa in 1986. Like many other nations imposing sanctions, it has pledged to maintain the bans until there is clear evidence of irreversible change in the apartheid system.

Mandela also asked Canadians to aid black nationalists in their struggle to build a multi-racial society in South Africa.

"We are here to request of you that you assist us with the material wherewithal which will enable us to realize our common project for turning South Africa into a haven of justice, peace and equality," he said.

In his address, Mulroney pledged to help in South Africa's transition to a multi-racial society.

"Mr Mandela, you can count on Canada in the months and years ahead, as you have in the past, as you build a country in which the democratic hopes and dreams of all South Africans can be realized, whatever their colour or whatever their creed," Mulroney said.

Move for anti-ANC alliance

JOHANNESBURG, June 18. (UPI) — President Frederik de Klerk moved today to forge a national pro-government black alliance against the growing influence of foremost anti-apartheid movement the African National Congress.

He called together government-appointed black leaders and other officials in a bid to undercut the socialist ideology of the guerrilla-backed ANC and its support for world trade sanctions against the white minority government, government sources said.

The delegates in a joint statement after the talks repeated De Klerk's regular call for "real negotiations for a new constitution" to begin soon, and noted priorities were "efficient government at all times," as well as "economic growth and development and an end to 'intimidation and political and other violence'."

The group met in Cape Town at the same time as the chief of staff of the ANC's military wing, Chris Hani, returned to South Africa to canvas support after 16 years in exile, taking advantage of recent racial reforms which include the unimpeded return of certain political refugees.

The ANC also hinted today at a possible security forces smear campaign involving the United States and ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela, whose 1962 arrest was linked to CIA co-operation with South African authorities in local newspaper reports just days before Mandela's arrival in New York Wednesday on the first stop of a 10-day US visit.

US, Mandela may disagree over South Africa reform

WASHINGTON, June 18. (Reuters) — Black leader Nelson Mandela is assured of a tumultuous welcome when he visits the United States this week, but he will be greeted by a Bush administration somewhat sceptical of his hardline view on South African sanctions.

Mandela is expected to use the media bonanza surrounding his 10 days in the United States to preach the need to keep the economic pressure on South Africa as it moves towards reform of the

apartheid system of white supremacy.

In previous stops on his world tour, Mandela has insisted that fundamental reform of apartheid has not taken place, despite conciliatory moves by the white minority government, most notably his own release from 27 years of imprisonment last February.

This will also be his line when he meets President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker and when he addresses a

joint session of Congress.

But officials said the Bush administration did not share his view. Although they say much progress has still to be made, the administration believes the progress of the past few months has been remarkable and has transformed the political landscape in South Africa.

Baker met President F.W. de Klerk in Cape Town in March, a trip designed to signify that Washington no longer believed in the diplomatic isolation of

South Africa and intended to raise the level of contacts between the two governments.

"The sanctions issue is not an issue right now. We and Mandela agree that should not be intensified," said one State Department official.

However, White House Chief of Staff John Sununu has said Bush has the legal authority to remove sanctions and was likely to review the matter during the next few weeks.

Any US decision to relax sanc-

tions would be closely watched by other Western nations and would probably be followed by several.

Under legislation passed by Congress, Bush cannot move towards relaxing sanctions until South Africa lifts the state of emergency imposed five years ago and releases an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 political prisoners.

The State Department said these conditions were only partially fulfilled by De Klerk's decision earlier this month to lift

the emergency from all of South Africa except the province of Natal.

The State Department official indicated that should the conditions be wholly fulfilled, there would no longer be a reason to maintain sanctions, which were originally designed to move the parties towards peaceful negotiations.

Some observers in Washington are asking why 71-year-old Mandela is subjecting himself to such a gruelling tour.

"There's an element of making hay while he can," said Millard Arnold, an analyst with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"His martyr quality will not last forever. This is a time when his message will be listened to more than at any other time," he said.

There was also an element of damage control. De Klerk has also been on his travels seeking to reap diplomatic benefits from his reforms.

PLO begins probe into raid

Abu Nidal followers disarmed

TUNIS, June 18, (Reuters): The Palestine Liberation Organisation has opened an internal inquiry into the Palestinian commando operation against Israel last month which has put in doubt the future of the PLO-American dialogue.

Salah Khalaf, who supervises the PLO's security service, told Reuters in an interview today the aim was to find out if civilians were the target in the May 30 raid on two Israeli beaches by the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF).

The United States has threatened to break off the dialogue unless the PLO condemns the operation and takes disciplinary action against PLF leader Mohammed Abbas (Abu Abbas), who is a member of the PLO's 15-member Executive Committee.

Village head hanged for helping Israel

Poet detained

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 18, (Agencies): Palestinian nationalists in the occupied West Bank have hanged an Israeli-appointed village official who they accused of having ties to the security forces, residents said today.

Suspected arson attacks on trees and crops were reported in both Israel and the West Bank, and Jerusalem police said they had arrested two Palestinian boys for vandalising Jewish gravesites in the Mount of Olives cemetery.

West Bank residents said Lutfi Hassan Khalaf, 45, was found today hanging from an olive tree outside his home village of Birjini, near the northern city of Jenin. Israeli soldiers took the body and imposed a curfew on the village.

Palestinians said Birjini residents forced Khalaf to leave the village two years ago over ties with Israeli security forces but he returned about two months ago. They said local activists accused him of setting up an informer network and helping the security forces capture at least nine people sought by the army.

An Israeli army spokesman confirmed a body was found in the village.

Aides to Levy are angry

First rift in cabinet

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 18, (AP): Aides to Foreign Minister David Levy are angry with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for refusing American proposals for starting Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, a leading Hebrew daily reported today.

In a front-page story, the Haaretz newspaper said Levy also blocked the premier from delivering a message to Egyptian leaders through the Israeli embassy in Cairo last week.

Israeli analysts have predicted Shamir's right-wing government of 10 parties would be plagued with disputes. But the Shamir-Levy argument means the first rift in the week-old cabinet erupted within Shamir's own Likud bloc. Levy is the party's No. 2 man.

Levy's aspirations to eventually replace Shamir as Likud leader have caused past disputes between the two. In Shamir's last cabinet, Levy was a chief critic of US peace plans, but has taken a more moderate stance since taking over the foreign ministry.

Levy's spokeswoman Aliza Goren, reached by telephone, declined direct comment on the reports of disagreement, saying only they were "an exaggeration and blown out of proportion."

Ms Goren also noted one major goal of a Moroccan-born Levy "is to bring better understanding with the United States."

Cup calms Lebanon

Vatican peace proposal

Syria opposes

BEIRUT, June 18, (AP): World Cup fever is sweeping Lebanon and when matches start rival Christian fighters lay down their guns and watch the game on television.

The only gunfire is when excited militiamen shoot in the air in jubilation when their favourite teams score.

When West Germany played Yugoslavia last week, a group of scruffy militiamen of Christian warrior Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces gathered around a mobile anti-aircraft gun in east Beirut's Ashrafieh district to watch the game on a portable television set propped up beside the twin-barrelled Soviet-designed "Dushka" weapon.

A few score yards (metres) away, their rivals, rebel Gen Michel Aoun's troops, also watched the game on a TV hooked to a truck battery.

When West Germany's Lothar Matthaus scored his second goal, both groups whooped for joy and fired off clips into the air.

The Germans' 4-1 victory triggered more celebratory gunfire.

It was hard to imagine that Aoun's troops and Geagea's irregulars have been at each other's throats since Jan 30 in a savage power struggle for control of the Christian enclave north of Beirut.

"The World Cup's been a god-send," said one man in Christian east Beirut. "We really needed a diversion, even if it's only for a month."

"We know we'll be going back to the 'tail mines' afterward," he said, referring to fears that a month-long ceasefire between Aoun's troops and Geagea's unruly militiamen will collapse, like all the other truces.

The uneasy ceasefire is frequently violated. But when the World Cup's on TV, both sides are too engrossed to skirmish.

Across the devastated city, in the teeming Shiite Muslim shantytowns

of south Beirut, there are similar scenes of World Cup addiction.

It was almost as if the Iranian-backed Amal movement for mastery of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shiites, the country's largest sect, for three years.

In those two confrontations alone, more than 2,000 people have been killed and at least 5,000 wounded. Most have been civilians.

Every afternoon, when the soccer

matches start in Italy, everyone switches on their television sets.

Electricity in Beirut has been cut off since early February because the power plants were knocked out in the fighting between Aoun's soldiers and Geagea's militiamen.

So everyone uses generators. The city hums. The authorities have allowed generators to run until midnight, or until the end of the last game, whichever comes first.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the Iranian Embassy in Ankara as saying the antiquities, some 850 years old, were seized three weeks ago from the Turkish Charge D'affaires in Tehran, Mofit Ozdas.

The agency quoted an Iranian Embassy spokesman in Ankara as saying the antiquities included glass and porcelain vases and pistols.

Iran said Turkish newspapers have launched a "smear campaign" against Iran and alleged that Ozdas was "manhandled" and his personal belongings confiscated by revolutionary guards in Tehran.

The agency, without explanation, said that Ozdas was still working at the Turkish Embassy in the Iranian capital.

Hussein shy of basing Arab troops

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, June 18, (AP): King Hussein of Jordan has voiced hesitation about allowing other Arab troops to be deployed in the Hashemite kingdom for fear of possible Israeli retaliation.

"Practically, Israel says any non-Jordanian Arab presence in this land (Jordan) is an aggression against it," he said on Dubai television's "Face the Press" programme broadcast last night.

The answer to this is to allow Jordan to establish and develop its power, in order to stand and face the first attack to enable other Arabs to reach Jordan at the right time," he said.

He did not elaborate. But at an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad last month called to confront perceived threats by Israel, Hussein pressed for general support, mainly financial, to help him buttress his army and withstand economic pressures of Israel's occupation of the West Bank.

Iraq and Jordan have talked recently of forming joint military formations to be based in Jordan, Israel's eastern neighbour,



King Hussein: hesitant.

and Israeli leaders have expressed concern at this.

This and other developments, including Arab acquisition of long-range missiles capable of hitting Israel, have stirred a new climate of uncertainty in the volatile Middle East with both sides making bellicose statements.

A key issue at Baghdad summit was the large-scale emigration to Israel of Soviet Jews following Moscow's relaxation of travel restrictions.

Reshuffle in Jordan cabinet

AMMAN, June 18, (Reuters): Jordan's Prime Minister Mudar Badran made changes in his cabinet today bringing in two new members, the state-run news agency Petra said.

The reshuffle, the first since Badran took office on December 7, makes Khaled Amin Abdullah, an executive of the local Al-Ahli Bank, replacing Planning Minister Awni Al-Masri, who offered his resignation in February.

Hikmat Al-Saket became minister of state for Prime Ministry Affairs, a post he held when Badran was premier in the early 1980s.

Minister of Transport and Communications Ibrahim Ayyoub and Minister of Supply Nabil Abul Huda exchanged portfolios.

King Hussein issued a royal decree endorsing the changes, Petra added.

Badran formed his government following November's general parliamentary elections, the first in 22 years, in which Islamic fundamentalists made striking gains.

Political sources said the appointments involved technocrats and signified no major policy change. The number of cabinet posts would rise to 25 from 24.

plan," he said.

"I believe that process has been derailed, especially given the fact that all the world has moved for holding the international conference for peace in the Middle East, with the exception of the United States."

He described Jordan's relations with the United States as passing through a "cold period," although dialogue with Washington continued "with a language they in Washington may not like, but it is reality."

Saddam raises issue after Iran threatens

Closing Strait discussed

KUWAIT, June 18, (AP): Iraq's president has discussed with Yemeni leaders the possibility of closing the Bab Al Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea to Iranian vessels if Tehran tries to block delivery of Italian-built warships to Iraq, the Al-Seyassah daily said today.

It said that Saddam Hussein, who visited the newly united state of Yemen at the weekend, raised the issue after Iran's naval commander, Rear Adm. Ali Saleh Shamkhani, threatened to prevent 11 Italian-built warships being delivered to Iraq through the

Hormuz Strait, gateway to the Gulf and the only maritime route to Iraq.

The warships, including destroyers, would significantly enhance Iraq's Navy while Iran's remains plagued by a chronic lack of spare parts and weapons systems following the Aug 20, 1988, ceasefire in the 8-year war with Iraq.

Yemen, on the southwestern tip of the Arabian peninsula, dominates the strategic Bab Al-Mandeb Strait, the southern gateway to the Red Sea and about 22 miles (35 kms) wide at its narrowest point.

The Suez Canal is the only other gateway to the Red Sea, through which the Iraq-bound warships would have to sail from the Mediterranean.

Al Seyassah quoted an unidentified source as saying: "Closure of the Bab Al Mandeb Strait will prevent the delivery to Iran of new naval units, including submarines which Shamkhani said would be used to block Iraqi military navigation in the Hormuz Strait and on the high seas." Al Seyassah quoted the source as saying.

Popper charged with murder

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 18, (AP): A court today charged Ami Popper, a 21-year-old Israeli, with the murder of seven Palestinian labourers whose deaths last month set off riots or revenge attacks in which 20 other people died.

Popper was charged in Tel Aviv district court after a five-man psychiatric panel rejected claims by Popper's lawyer, David Ofek, that his client was unfit to stand trial, officials said.

District prosecutor Nurit Smith said Popper would face a mandatory life sentence if convicted of the seven murders and the wounding of 10 other Arab labourers.

In the May 20 slayings, an armed attacker forced about 50 Palestinians to sit in rows as they waited for day jobs in the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Letzion. He then opened fire with an assault rifle on the unarmed labourers.

The attack sparked riots in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in which 18 Palestinians were killed, most in army gunfire. Two Israelis also died in alleged revenge attacks.

Authorities said at the time that Popper, who was discharged early from the Israeli army for disciplinary problems, was deranged and upset by an unhappy love affair. Ofek claimed he tried to hang himself in jail.

Also today three Palestinians aged 12, 14 and 17, from Ras Al Amud village in East Jerusalem confessed to smashing 80 graves with hammers in the Mount of Olives cemetery last week, police spokesman Yitzhak Greif said.

Jerusalem's magistrate's court ordered the two younger suspects held for 10 days for further investigation of the case, while police continued to question the third suspect, Greif added.

"They said they planned the act for two weeks," Jerusalem police commander Arieh Bibi said on Israel army radio. "Their version is that after soldiers destroyed a mosque in Azaria (a neighbouring Arab town) they decided they would smash Jewish graves as revenge."



Pilgrimage

Some 1,200 Muslims from Israel and the occupied territories crossed the West Bank's Al-Bab Bridge army checkpoint on Monday for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, the government announced.

The pilgrims, many in white robes and white prayer caps, sat in about two dozen buses waiting for last-minute security checks before crossing the bridge into Jordan en route to Saudi Arabia.

An additional 6,300 pilgrims will be leaving throughout the week for Mecca, Islam's holiest site, Muslim officials said.

Israel's Religious Affairs Minister, Avner Shalev, addressed the pilgrims in Arabic during a brief farewell ceremony. He urged them to pray for peace and emphasised the common roots of Judaism and Islam.

Picture shows Jordanian police look across the Al-Bab Bridge to Israel as Israeli Arabs began their pilgrimage to Mecca. (Hector wirephoto)

Sudanese ambassador resigns: Sudan's ambassador to Morocco, Abdullah Mahjoub, said yesterday he had resigned in protest against human rights violations by the military government of President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir.

"I feel it is no longer possible for me to represent the military government for political reasons. I can not defend the regime's flagrant violations of human rights," he said. (Reuters)

Sakharov widow to visit Israel: Ms Yelena Bonner, wife of the late Soviet scientist and human rights activist Andrei Sakharov, will visit Israel to dedicate a park in his honour and accept an honorary degree in his name, Jerusalem city officials announced yesterday.

Ms Bonner also is to meet with Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek, Israeli President Chaim Herzog and Soviet Jewish dissidents who have immigrated to Israel. (AP)

Iran builds F-4 parts: Iranian aviation experts, hampered by a Western arms embargo, have for the first time reconstructed the nose of a US-made F-4 fighter-bomber, Tehran Radio said yesterday.

It said experts at Iran's Aviation Industries Company had spent a year to manufacture 919 parts and reconstruct 168 other pieces to build the nose.

"It can be called Iran's biggest technical achievement in aviation manufacturing and repair," said the radio, monitored in Nicosia. (Reuters)

Irish mission in Tehran: A three-man Irish parliamentary delegation is in Tehran seeking talks with senior Iranian officials, the Tehran Times daily reported yesterday.

"It is not known whether the visit... has to do with overall relations between the European Economic Community and Iran, or whether they are here on a fact-finding mission on ties between Iran and Dublin," the daily reported. (AP)

Jordanians arrest activists: Authorities have arrested five political activists, including four members of the Islamic Jihad-Bait Al Maqdes group, this week and seized weapons, a group member said on Sunday.

Talat Tamimi said three men were arrested on Thursday when police "looking for weapons" searched the house of his father, Assad Bayoud Tamimi, leader of Islamic Jihad, or Islamic holy war.

He said his father was out of the country when police swooped and seized two unlicensed Kalashnikov assault rifles and .45 calibre pistol "which are my father's personal arms." (AP)

Three jailed for heroin smuggling: A Syrian housewife and two Arab men were jailed Monday for trying to smuggle heroin from Lebanon and sell it in Spain.

Prosecutor Andreas Angelides told the District Court in Larissa that Iliam Haddad Khanou was arrested April 14 when she arrived by boat from Lebanon. (AP)

Call to form a front in Algeria

ALGIERS, June 18, (Reuters): Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), a centre-left party that came fourth in Algeria's first free elections, has urged formation of a broad-based democratic front after a triumph by Muslim fundamentalists.

"The RCD issues an appeal for a wide and resolutely offensive democratic front," said a statement carried by Algerian radio today.

It proposed a meeting on July 5 to create a new structure that would allow the 'convergence' of efforts toward the fast and urgent realisation of a vast democratic movement.

RCD, run by ethnic Berbers, won 87 of the country's 1,541 municipalities in the local poll that gave 853 to the Islamic Salvation Front, 487 to the ruling National Liberation Front and 106 to independents.

RCD, which derives most of its support from natives of the Berber-speaking Kabylie mountains east of Algiers, said the proposed new structure would be separate from a 'democratic forum' formed by a group of intellectuals last Friday.

The FIS aims to create an Islamic state which critics say would end a multi-party democracy launched by President Chadli Benjedid after October 1988 youth riots.

Only a coalition of pro-democracy parties would be able to block the FIS in parliamentary elections now widely expected to be held before the scheduled date of 1992, the RCD says.

Meanwhile, the FLN has vowed to cleanse its ranks after a crushing defeat at the polls to Muslim fundamentalists.

A long awaited statement from the FLN's political bureau last night blamed in part the Front's failure to adapt to a new democratic era after 28 years of one-party rule.

The renovation of the party and the revelation of its human composition constitute one of the major requirements of the future," the statement said.

The fundamentalists won an absolute majority in at least 30 of the 33 municipalities making up metropolitan Algiers with an average of 78 per cent of the popular vote.

In apparent reference to the FIS, the FLN said the election climate 'had not been exempt from verbal extremism, excesses and behaviour contrary to the freedom of choice of citizens.'

But the statement, carried by the Algerian news agency APS, said the vote's political significance could not be ignored.

Said Barre asked to quit, Somalis held

NAIROBI, June 18, (Reuters): Somalia's authorities have arrested the country's first president and other prominent figures after leaders calling for the resignation of President Mohamed Said Barre were distributed in Mogadishu, Somali sources said today.

Mogadishu Radio, monitored in Nairobi, said more than 40 people were being held since last week for distributing the pamphlets in the capital.

Somali sources in Nairobi said those arrested included Adan Abdullah Osman, first elected president of the Somali Republic after independence in 1960, and Sheikh Mukhtar Mohamed Hussein, chairman of parliament before Said Barre seized power in 1969.

Tehran daily castigates Turkish press

NICOSIA, June 18, (AP): A radical Tehran daily yesterday castigated the Turkish press for publishing "insulting articles" about the Islamic Republic to stifle a Muslim revival and a Turkish diplomat was accused of trying to smuggle "priceless antiquities."

The official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the Iranian Embassy in Ankara as saying the antiquities, some 850 years old, were seized three weeks ago from the Turkish Charge D'affaires in Tehran, Mofit Ozdas.

The agency quoted an Iranian Embassy spokesman in Ankara as saying the antiquities included glass and porcelain vases and pistols.

Iran said Turkish newspapers have launched a "smear campaign" against Iran and alleged that Ozdas was "manhandled" and his personal belongings confiscated by revolutionary guards in Tehran.

The agency, without explanation, said that Ozdas was still working at the Turkish Embassy in the Iranian capital.

Tehran's Abar daily denounced Turkish newspapers for publishing "obscene pictures... in a bid to pervert the public, young people in particular."

There has been friction in recent months between Turkey and neighbouring Iran, which considers itself to be the leader of the

world's estimated 1 billion Muslims.

Turkey is predominantly Muslim, but is a secular state. It is grappling with rising Islamic fundamentalism that has touched off violence in recent months.

Abrar denied reports in Turkish newspapers that the trouble was being instigated by "foreign elements."

"How come that despite an intensive anti-Islamic campaign, university students... stood against the no-veil policy and defended the Islamic code of dressing for women as a vehicle for returning to Islam and expressing hatred for the lay system?" the Abar editorial said.

GCC joint culture formula on agenda

Ministers meet in Muscat

MUSCAT, June 18, (Kuna): GCC ministers in charge of culture in the six states of the Gulf Co-operation Council yesterday started their third conference in Al Bustan Palace Hotel under the chairmanship of Omani Minister of Culture and National Heritage Faisal Bin Faisal.

In an inaugural speech Bin Faisal said Oman is honoured to host such a conference for the second time, the first was in 1986, to seek drafting of a joint culture work formula among GCC states.

During the two-day conference, the

officials will review cultural programmes proposed by the council's general committee for culture for the year 1991-92.

Such programmes will include periodical exhibitions of formative arts, literature conferences and seminars, and

outlooks on producing a joint film on the GCC states.

The officials of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, besides Oman, will also review a united system for the reservation of authors' rights and similar laws and regulations.

Check erroneous questions: official

AN OFFICIAL source at the Ministry of Education stressed that the ministry has informed all examination committees to check any erroneous questions for the interest of students without looking at their answers.

He pointed out that the ministry has utilised all of its services to enable students at General Secondary Examinations from going through examinations with comfort and confidence.

He added that questions for the examinations were extracted from the contents of curricula in both the Art and Science sections.

He indicated that it is normal to see students complaining every year of examinations given, adding that each of the exams times were designed to give students the opportunity to review what they had answered. He said that so far examination results have reflected good standards.

On the other hand, the officials admitted to the existence of an error in the first paper of the physics examination. At the same time, he rejected that there were any other errors in examinations given to students. He indicated that the ministry had tried to correct the errors before students arrive at their examination centres. He added that the ministry was able to correct the error at some examinations centres but not all of them. The ministry informed examination committees to cancel the question for the interest of students.

Gulf Air BD 27.7m in the black for 1989

THE Gulf Air board of directors held its 35th session in Bahrain on May 30 & 31, 1990. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Ali Bin Khalifa Al Dhaheri, chairman of Civil Aviation Abu Dhabi and current chairman of the board. The Bahraini delegation was headed by Abdullah Bin Saleh Al Mana, Minister of Transport, Sultanate of Oman was represented in the board meeting by Sheikh Hamoud Bin Abdullah Al Haythi, Minister of Transport, Gulf Air president and chief Ali Ibrahim Al Malki, attended the meeting.

The board decided on several issues of great importance such as approving the closing accounts of the airline for the last year, Gulf Air has attained a net profit totalling BD27.7m for the year 1989.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of opening new routes to Singapore and Australia by the end of this year provided that the necessary traffic rights are obtained. The board also approved the sale and lease of the eight Trident aircraft owned by the company to Omani Aviation Services. Several offers were submitted by many companies to buy these planes. The purchase offer amounted to \$212 m.

The lease offer covers 31 months at \$330,000 per month for each plane. The lease period is renewable if so desired by the company.

On the other hand the board also discussed the means of diversifying Gulf Air's activities launching new hotel projects and upgrading the airline's services.

The board postponed the discussion of the new Gulf Air's reorganisation to a later meeting to be held in Muscat.



Red Crescent talks

The secretary-general of the Kuwait Red Crescent Barges H. Al Barges received, at his office recently the president of the Senegal Red Cross Ousmane Diagne. The two officials discussed difficulties facing Africa in general and the Senegal in particular. Barges promised, however, to raise the issue of the Kuwait assistance in the next board meeting of KRC. Diagne, who is currently visiting the country, is also the general secretary of the Francophone Red Cross and Red Crescent societies of Africa.

Social Affairs

KD430pm allocated for each needy family

By Bassam Al Qasas

ASSISTANT Undersecretary for Social Care Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Dr Lateefa Al Rjaib stressed that Kuwaiti women had made many scientific and social accomplishments. She pointed out that total dependence on housemaids in taking care of children results in many negative and dangerous effects. She stated that women taking up careers is not the main cause in the increase of the housemaids phenomenon in Kuwait and attributed this to an increase in living standards.

She pointed out that the ministry is taking care of 10,689 families at an annual cost of KD18.8 million and added that this level of funding is the highest in the world. She pointed out that the ministry has allocated a total of KD430 as monthly assistance for each needy family in Kuwait.

Regarding smoking among students, she said that family oriented problems and the over-indulgence of children contributed to this form of delinquency. She stressed that there are a total of 29 juvenile cases involving drinking, narcotics and Patex inhaling at the Juvenile Care Centre and added that each case is being studied individually in order to provide the right treatment.

Protection

She stated that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour had established specialised sections at each of its departments to follow up various problems. Such departments were formed for the purpose of protecting citizens rights and interests included in the labour law at the private sector. Such laws have also taken into consideration working women's rights such as giving them fully paid maternity leave

and child nursing leave.

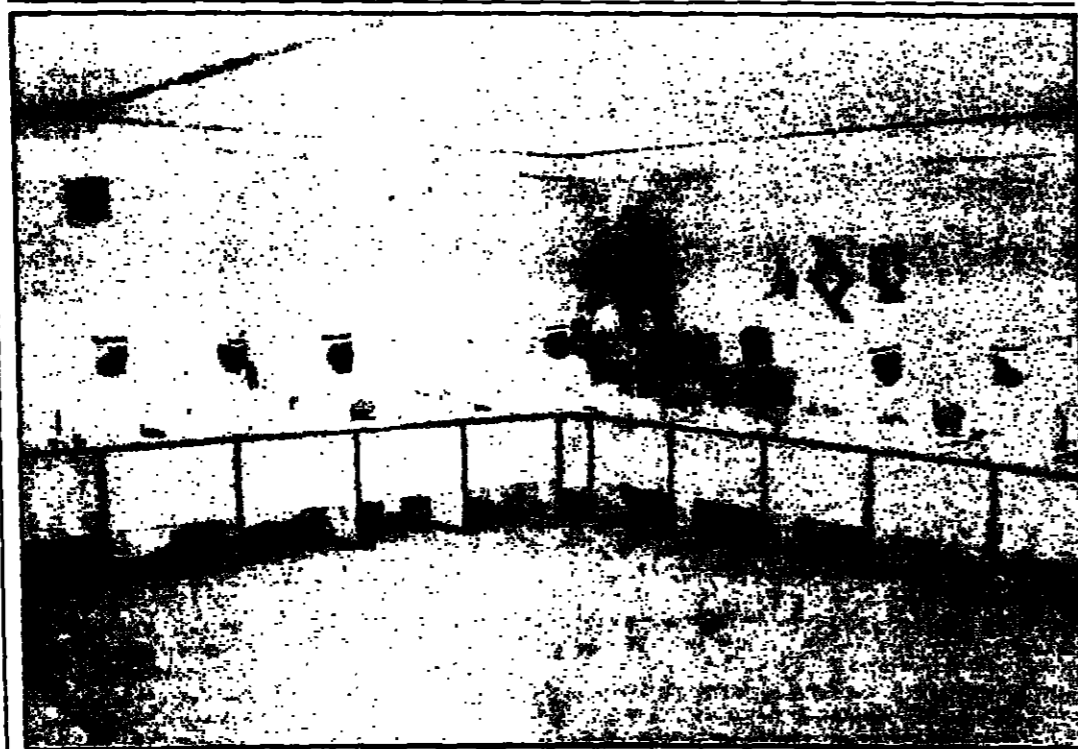
Through Society Development Centres, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour organises training courses in different specialties for all Kuwaiti women interested in working at a specific job. As an incentive, the ministry pays KD30 monthly to all Kuwaiti females participating in these courses.

Development

She pointed out that the Kuwaiti family has been greatly affected as a result of the fast development in the society during the last few years. She said that some of the effects were positive and others negative. Kuwaiti families are less oriented towards being one unified block represented by weaker ties, she added.

Regarding the problems of spinsterhood and divorce in Kuwait, the assistant undersecretary stated that such a phenomenon had reflected many social and behavioural problems in Kuwaiti society. In order to resolve these problems, the ministry established an office for family consultations in Bayan. The office aims at solving family disputes and spreading awareness among those interested in marriage. She advises Kuwaiti youth to marry Kuwaiti women in order to cut down the size of the problem. She said that Kuwait government had increased the assistance value for Kuwaitis marrying Kuwaiti females up to KD3,000, of which KD1,000 is a gift and KD2,000 is repayable on easy instalments.

On the ministry's role towards protecting youth from narcotics she stated that the ministry, represented by the Juvenile Care Centre, is keen towards resolving juvenile problems. She said that the ministry has organised many lectures and symposiums on the ill effects of narcotics.



Educational course

Deputy director-general of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Paaet, Hmoud Al Mudal opened Saturday a training programme on the best use of educational means. Professional Development Centre at the authority is organising the programme.

NHA to cut short waiting period

THE Minister of State for Housing Affairs Naser Abdullah Al Roudan has said that the National Housing Authority is currently preparing to implement the recommendations and suggestions of the Higher Council for Housing Planning on the cost reduction of government supplied houses and devising ways to cut short the time applicants have to wait before they receive their houses.

He told a local daily that the NHA has begun, following the implementation of the new housing care system to grant Kuwaiti graduates from the engineering, and other professional and arts faculties special privileges to facilitate their receipt of government houses. He added that the constantly increasing number of applications for government houses has led to doubling the rate of public spending on construction of housing projects and also accelerated the tempo of the construction process.

Priority

The housing problem is considered the first priority on the government list as the Kuwaiti family is the central pillar of the society and therefore it is essential to make sure that all needed comforts are supplied to all citizens, the minister said.

He said that the construction, design and other project-related services have over the past few years witnessed greater improvement in better technologies on the housing projects, and contributed to reducing waiting period for houses, the official said.

The NHA's third five-year plan emphasised the need to cut the long waiting time needed to provide better quality houses with all time-honoured Kuwaiti social traditions and to utilise all usable lands, whether in or outside Kuwait City.

He said that the fourth five-year plan will involve the construction of 27,227 housing units at a total cost of 1.620 billion Kuwaiti dinars, which also include the cost of related services and real estate loans.

He attributed the constant increase in the number of applicants for government houses to the considerable improvement in the design and construction level of these houses, due to the growing support of this vital sector by the government.

Telecommunication requirements

THE director of telecommunication and air navigation centre Jassim Al Zanki has said that the centre was studying the local market requirements for new technical specialisation.

In an interview with a local daily, the official was quoted as saying that the centre is in a position to meet such requirements. He added that the centre is studying the feasibility of providing the necessary maintenance for computer equipment in view of the importance of such maintenance for different sectors.

He added that the centre contains several divisions for graduating technical cadres to cover the local market requirements. There are about 450 students currently studying in the centre of which about 96 students of different specialisations will graduate soon.

Meanwhile, the official praised the co-operation showed by the state's ministries and institutions towards recruiting the centre's graduates including the ministries of communication, public health, interior, defence, information, justice and finance.

Shortage of facilities at various KU faculties

DR KHALED AL SAAD, dean of the Kuwait Faculty of Commerce, Economic and Political Sciences at Kuwait University, has said that academic and scientific obstacles face students at the faculty due to the inadequacy of scientific experience and the shortage in faculty facilities.

He told a local daily that the faculty is trying hard to overcome the existing shortages through organising training courses for students during the summer recess. This is being undertaken in co-ordination with ministries, and different establishments, to sidestep the theoretical obstacles, stressing that the students will be provided

with spacious study rooms on the relocation of the faculty to the new building.

He said that the current physical obstacles are the result of the constant growth of students number which the existing old faculty building cannot accommodate. A study is in progress to establish the capacity needs for students and teaching staff on the basis of which the proposed new building for the faculty of administrative sciences will be designed and constructed.

He pointed out that special training programmes will be developed for students seeking to enrich their practical academic

experience during the summer recess through accommodating students with jobs at ministries and other government agencies.

He said that the proposed transfer of the current faculty's name into the College of Administrative Sciences will be done next year. The idea is to set up specialised sections whereby graduates will be qualified to cater to the requirements of the local labour market.

The new college will provide students with higher study courses, such as diploma and MSc in Business Administration, and General Management, while current programmes still focus on BSc degrees, Saad said.

Summer clubs

Better programmes planned this year

THE assistant undersecretary for students and sports affairs at the Ministry of Education, Abdul Mohsen Naser has said that the summer clubs will witness a great change in kind, which will largely affect all their programmes of activity, in line with a new approach of comprehensive educational planning scheme based on scientific criteria aimed at ensuring the fulfilment of their objectives.

He said that the main objectives of the clubs is to help students utilise their summer vacation usefully, and get them busy with rewarding and educative activities to avoid bad company and time-wasting.

He added that the second objective of the summer clubs is to offer students the chance to acquire experience to better enable them to solve their problems in a scientific manner and also to give them the chance to join in different training activity programmes, such as auto-mechanic, electronics, computer, and special programmes for girls, such as the art of cooking, domestic management, Sadu, tailoring, embroidery, needle-work, typing, and others.

He also said that the third objective is to help talented students to develop their skills, and innovative ones to upgrade their level of creativity under the supervision of special scientific instructions.

He added that the special summer students paid employment programme will provide 300 students with work opportunities in different private and public sites with the intention of getting them to respect work and get them to honour work obligations.

He said that 45 clubs will start operating in different locations in Kuwait as of June 20, when a total of 30 students, boys and girls, are expected to join each.

Graduation parties

THE higher committee for organising the graduates party for the academic year 88/89 decided to hold the first of its kind graduation parties since the establishment of the University of Kuwait. The party will be held during the last quarter of October at the Shuwaiikh playgrounds. The party will witness a huge crowd of graduate students who will be seated at the Shuwaiikh Stadium, which has a capacity of 13,000.

This decision was made during the higher committee meeting, headed by Dr Rasha Al Sabah Assistant University Rector for Society Service and Information.

The meeting was aimed at taking necessary measures for holding the party.

The party is being held on the occasion of the university's 25th anniversary which will take place November 1991. The party will be attended by all graduates and their parents.



Memorial shield

A delegation from Hawalli educational area yesterday visited the chairman of the General Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaili. The delegation, comprising of controller of education service, Belal Abdullah and head of the schools activities department, Duaili Al Duaili, presented a memorial shield to Sheikh Ibrahim. They also discussed several agricultural issues with him.

Picture shows Belal Abdullah presenting the shield to Sheikh Ibrahim.

From the courts

Heroin smuggler gets 15 years

The Criminal Court sentenced a man to 15 years in jail and fined him KD35,000 for possession of heroin.

The court was told that the man arrived at Kuwait International Airport from Bombay at nine in the morning and stayed in the transit hall until 5 in the evening waiting for his connecting flight.

When passengers were called to board the flight, a police officer noticed that the accused walked slowly and lifted a leg in a cumbersome manner. A body search revealed a quarter kilogramme of heroin hidden inside the passengers socks.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man and a woman to two years imprisonment each followed by deportation.

The woman working as a housemaid at one of the households in Kuwait was seen leaving the neighbour's house by her employer who came back home from work at an unexpected time. The housemaid confessed to the court that she had committed adultery with the other convict who was working as a driver in the neighbour's house. The female convict is married in her country and so is the driver.

SECURITY police of the Almadai governorate continued their search for a gang believed to be responsible for a series of thefts of jewels from houses.

The burglars have moved their activities from houses to shops. In a recent development, a Sri Lankan national was lately beaten up by two youths wearing dishdashas and jewels valued at KD1,800 were stolen from the shop.

ONE man was sentenced to five years in jail to be followed by deportation from the country by Kuwait's Criminal Court, a local daily reported. It added that the defendant was found guilty of attempted rape of a housemaid.

The court was told that the defendant forcibly brought the woman into his house and tried to rape her but when she screamed he released her. The victim told her employer who reported the incident to the police station who immediately apprehended him. The accused recorded a confession at the police station stating that he will not repeat the act.

Before the court however, the defendant denied the charge, but the court based its verdict on the confession given by him at the police station.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sabah receives

KUWAIT, June 18, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber yesterday received at his office several members of the recently-elected National Council.

The National Council elections were held on June 10, where fifty members were elected and 25 others would be appointed by the Amir later this month.

Tunisian message

ABU DHABI, June 18, (Kuna): United Arab Emirates' Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Mana Saeed Al Otaiba yesterday received a message from Tunisian Economy and Finance Minister Mohamed Ghanouchi inviting him to visit Tunisia.

Ghanouchi is also in charge of oil and mineral sector in Tunisia.

Tunisian Ambassador to the UAE Ali Al Hashani delivered the message during a meeting with Otaiba.

Bishara visit

MUSCAT, June 18, (Kuna): Secretary-General of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states Abdullah Yaqoub Bishara arrived here yesterday on a visit to Oman, Omani News Agency said yesterday.

The agency said Bishara is to attend the third cultural ministerial meeting, due to be held later today, headed by National Heritage and Culture Minister Faisal Bin Ali Bin Faisal.

Kuwaiti public prosecutors to be appointed soon

THE chancellor of Kuwait Supreme Judiciary Council Mohammed Yusuf Al Rifai has said that a number of Kuwaiti public prosecutors will be appointed by the beginning of the next judicial session.

In an interview with a local daily Rifai, who is also the chairman of the Constitutional Court and the High Court of Appeal, said that the Court of Appeal will continue to try appealed cases including bank-

ruptcy commercial and criminal cases, during the summer vacation.

Commenting on the judicial annual vacation, the official said that this was necessary to enable officials in the judicial corps to restore their energies.

He added that the annual leave was necessary for every employee, hinting that labour legislations have considered it as one of the basic rights of workers

and the employers who deprive workers of this right will be subject to the necessary legal penalties in addition to the payment of related compensation.

He added that the decided vacation for the employee could not be curtailed, or cancelled unless exceptional circumstances relating to job interest arises.

Meanwhile, the official said that according to law No. 13/1960 judges and public

prosecutors are subject to the civil employments in law in respect to the annual vacation.

Replying to a question over the way the judicial annual vacation affects lawyers, the official said, the Kuwaiti Bar Association in 1971 in a memo submitted to the Supreme Judiciary Council had suggested an annual judicial vacation following the pattern of other countries in this connection. The memo based its suggestions that most of the

affected parties, the judges and even the bar are to enjoy an annual vacation during the summer season.

He added, in the light of this memo the council in its session held on March 22, 1971, had decided that the judicial annual vacation should start during August of every year, provided that the courts remain on duty to try urgent cases which had been provided by the Supreme Judiciary Council.

Rent-a-plane firm to be established

Bid to pressure Arab interests

KAC has reportedly begun taking the necessary legal and procedural arrangements to announce the establishment of the Arab Company for Financing the Purchase and Rental of Aircraft in co-operation with the Public Investment Authority at a total capital of \$20 million.

The company will, during its first operational stages, be totally owned by the KAC with the door open before other shareholders to join in, at a later date, while contacts and attempts are currently under way with world aircraft manufacturers to get their support and back up for the company.

KAC chairman of the board and man-

aging director Ahmad Al Mishari has said that the establishment of this company was the result of KAC's awareness of the importance of entering into the world market for aircraft rentals which constantly gains added importance in the world of air transport year in year out.

He said that the idea was discussed at a pan-Arab level, as it was proposed as a joint Arab project to serve Arab carriers and financing agencies and polarise the carriers' expertise and capital under one entity to preserve the interests of Arab markets and meet their requirements while having to resort to foreign financing agencies.

He said that all needed studies were conducted under the umbrella of the Arab Union for Air Transport in co-operation with a number of Arab financing agencies, and a series of meetings were held for this purpose in and outside Kuwait.

He added that the KAC is still fully convinced of the importance and feasibility of the presence of such a company in the Arab world, particularly since the Arab market is lacking this vital activity, and needs to acquire experience in the field of financing aircraft rental.

Mishari added that KAC decided following board deliberations to adopt the idea and submitted it for consideration to

the minister of finance who approved it following a series of meetings and studies. On the understanding that KAC will undertake the establishment of the company in co-operation with the Public Investment Authority.

He said that KAC will sell the company the existing three 727 Boeing aircraft and will re-rent these aircraft for five years, which will be a good step in the interest of the company, as it guarantees a better market price for these aircraft after five years, and it will also reduce the current burdens shouldered by the KAC with these aircraft remaining under its ownership.

Follow-up on academic progress at KU

DIRECTOR of Cultural Relations Department at Kuwait University, Abdullah Al Bahar said that the department undertakes the process of co-ordination between the university and the Kuwaiti cultural bureaus abroad in addition to monitoring and following-up on the academic progress of Kuwaiti students involved in higher studies abroad.

Making this statement to a local daily, the official said that, additionally, the department co-operates with universities and educational institutions and also follows up the implementation of cultural agreements concluded between Kuwaiti universities and their counterparts abroad.

In this context, Bahar said that Kuwait University had concluded several scientific agreements with a number of foreign universities in the field of applied sciences, particularly in the fields of engineering and medicine. These agreements are aimed at upgrading the academic level at Kuwait University through an exchange of expertise, the official explained.

Consequently, agreements had been concluded with the USA based Harvard University, George Town University and George Washington University in addition to the UK based Manchester University and Canadian based McGill University.

About 171 Kuwaiti students follow up their higher studies abroad in USA, Britain, France, Canada and Egypt and are involved in several specialisations including science, education, law, arts, Shari'a (Islamic religion), engineering, medicine and allied sciences, the official said. He added that each student is entitled to a scholarship of KD370 in addition to KD125 social allowance for the bachelors and KD170 for marrieds.

Speaking of the organisation of the academic visits between Kuwait University and international universities, the official said that the university's budget had allocated the necessary provisions for receiving about 800 visiting professors to deliver scientific lectures and to inspect scientific division at the university in addition to holding seminars.

Apart from the above, the university receives experts for setting up of new scientific divisions at the university.

Speaking of the department's activities through the university, the official said that during the current academic year, the department had sponsored several cultural activities including organising of a conference of the merger of the International Financial Markets and its reflections on the GCC countries in addition to a conference on the theme of "The Law and the Computer". It also organised a scientific conference on diabetes and an international conference on organs transplantation in addition to a seminar on the National Uprising in the Arab occupied territories and a regional conference on illiteracy eradication.

Dope smokers arrested

SECURITY forces have arrested six men in the act of smoking dope in one of the flats in Sharq.

Earlier investigations had revealed that a number of people would always meet in the same flat. The flat was placed under surveillance along with those regularly visiting the premises.

On conclusive proof being obtained, security forces raided the premises and apprehended the suspects red-handed.

A search of the premises revealed 800,000 narcotic pills and 70 kilograms of hashish.

The suspects along with the contraband and other paraphernalia have been referred to investigation authorities.



The Guillemots and Christian Cramay with their Association Joy van in front of Arab Times.

Roughing it out for humane joy

French aid group drive in.

By Diana Abou Halder

Arab Times staff

TRAVELLING across continents in an unair-conditioned van, the Guillemot family and their friend want to make sure that French humanitarian aid to children is justly distributed to those who need it.

"So many people in France have doubts about donations reaching the right people. If we can prove to them that they are, we'll be able to get more donations," said Jean-Claude Guillemot, 29, the president of Association Joy, a charity organisation based in Bergerac, France.

Guillemot, along with his wife Marie-Therese, 24, their three little boys, and their friend, Christian Cramay, arrived in Kuwait three weeks ago. Their longstop in Kuwait was not a part of their scheduled trip from their native Bergerac to Romania and India.

"We have to make a change in our route. We couldn't get a visa to Saudi Arabia because of the haj season," said Guillemot adding that the only way they could continue their trip would be taking a boat from Kuwait to Bombay. Guillemot also said that the group is running out of time and money. "Our Kuwaiti visa expires on June 26 and our daily expenses cannot exceed KD2."

In the first leg of their journey, they followed a truck loaded with medicines, books, food and clothes to Romania where they documented the distribution of the aid materials on video tape. "This film will be completed in India and shown to government and private agencies back in France," he

explained. "Helping little children who don't have any hate or racism in their hearts has become the purpose of my life since I visited India and saw the needy children there," said darkly tanned and jeans-clad Guillemot. Adjusting his narrow brown spectacles, he added: "I'm taking my children along because I want them to experience how children in other countries live."

Travelling in an ill-equipped van with boys aged 10, 12 and 14, the group had been an unforgettable experience for the couple and their friend. "The worst thing is doing the laundry by hand," said Marie-Therese pointing to a number of tiny shorts hung on a rope to dry inside the van. "Putting up with the heat in this area has also been very difficult," added the black-haired mother. "We have to spend most of the day in the water because we can't stay in the van."

But the travellers would have loved some of Kuwait's heat in Ankara, Turkey where they had to sleep in a tent on the snow.

They said that in spite of all the trouble they have been through, they are determined to reach India and do volunteer work in the children's hospitals and document it on tape.

For Cramay, a mechanic, also member of Association Joy, this trip has been a dream come true. "I have tried to join charity organisations for so long, but they always asked for some kind of medical training which I don't have. It was very exciting to be accepted for this mission with Association Joy."

Award for wife of former UK ambassador

INCLUDED amongst the honours announced in the Queen's Birthday Honour list was an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for the wife of Peter Hinchcliffe, former British ambassador to Kuwait, 1987-90.

The award was made in recognition of Mrs Hinchcliffe's work with handicapped children during the time she was in Kuwait. Mrs Hinchcliffe helped to found the Khalifa School for Handicapped Children as well as supporting the work of other institutions helping the handicapped.

Saudis to advise US on desalination

NICOSIA, June 18, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia has sent experts to the United States to advise the city of Los Angeles on water desalination, the Saudi Press Agency SPA reported today.

SPA said Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley was "greatly impressed" by Saudi Arabia's advanced technology in producing drinking water from the Gulf and the Red Sea during a visit to a Saudi exhibition currently touring the United States.

It said the team, led by Abdullah Al Ghleiga, would brief American water experts on the Saudi experience.

The oil-rich kingdom had been exhibiting its water desalination plants.

Sabah receives

KUWAIT, June 18, (Kuna) Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber today received former information under-secretary Abdul Aziz Mohammed Ja'fer, Kuwait's Ambassador to Sudan Abdullah Al Soraya and Abdul Rahman Al Bishr.

Arab-East European links

Changes widen trade choices

THE sweeping changes that perestroika and glasnost brought about in President Gorbachev's Soviet Union in the late 1980s and the dramatic political and economic shifts that began in East Europe in the last few months have raised many questions about their likely impact on world trade. Will the opening up of the Eastern bloc, with the move towards a market economy, boost prospects for trade with these countries? Will the terms of trade change, with greater emphasis on hard currency payments and away from their traditional mode of doing business through countertrade? And will Western multinational companies make use of joint ventures in the Eastern bloc to manufacture components more cheaply there for worldwide industries?

The EEC, Japan and the US, among others, are taking the changes, and the opportunities, seriously. The EEC has proposed the setting up of a multilateral European Bank for Reconstruction & Development which would help to promote East-West trade and several large US companies are already exploring opportunities for joint ventures in the East, one example being the move by General Electric (GE) of the US to take a 50 per cent stake in the Hungarian lighting manufacturer Tungsram.

Talks about the proposed bank were held in early January 1990 in Paris and attended by representatives of Consocon (the Eastern bloc trading group), Yugoslavia, the EEC, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) — which groups several non-EEC European countries, the US, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Cyprus and Malta.

Arab states, too, several of which have for many years had close economic and commercial links with the Eastern bloc, will be observing the changes closely. Greater trade between East and West Europe is certainly to be expected but better economic growth in the East may also widen scope for trade with Arab states. The latter, whose main exports have until recently been primary commodities, have traditionally supplied some vital raw materials to East Europe and the Soviet Union, including crude oil and phosphate rock.

Arab states wish to diversify their trade links and find outlets for their new industrial products, such as petrochemicals, as well as their desire to encourage joint ventures with foreign partners in

Arab countries, could herald a rise in Eastern bloc trade with the Arab region.

The bulk of Arab states' trade in the last 15 years of rapid economic development has been with West Europe, the US and Japan. But the Soviet Union, East Europe and Yugoslavia have nevertheless continued to trade there. They have been particularly prominent in sales of certain products and have carried out major projects in some Arab states. Arab countries especially appreciated the breaking of diplomatic links with Israel by most Eastern bloc nations after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. At the same time, countertrade, in which Eastern bloc countries are experts also suited several Arab states which were short of foreign exchange or had a surplus of raw materials, industrial goods or farm produce. The proximity of some Arab countries, such as Iraq, Jordan and Syria, to East Europe and the USSR also meant that trade with their neighbours made common sense. Several Arab countries have for many years sent students to Soviet and East European universities and teachers from the Eastern bloc have been seconded to some Arab states, so strengthening links between the two regions.

Egypt's High Dam

The Soviet Union has especially strong trade links with Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Yemen. Several of these countries' biggest projects, such as Egypt's Helwan steelworks, the Nag Hammadi aluminium smelter and the High Dam on the Nile (one of the twentieth century's engineering feats), or Syria's huge Euphrates dam scheme, were carried out by Soviet contractors. In Iraq, the Soviet Union helped to develop the Northern Rumaila oilfields in the 1970s while in South Yemen it has carried out farming, fisheries and telecommunications schemes. But the Soviet Union has also had some big contracts in other Arab states, too, such as a long-term accord to develop new phosphate reserves at Mestkala in Morocco and another for provision of equipment for Algeria's El Hadjar steelworks.

Other Eastern bloc states are well known for their strengths in particular markets.

Yugoslavia and Romania are big suppliers of tractors to the Arab region. Hungary sells farm and transport equipment. Poland supplies sulphur to some of the region's phosphate indus-

tries and Romania has provided meat and livestock. East Germany, meanwhile, is renowned as a supplier of heavy industrial machinery and has built several big factories in Algeria. Eastern bloc and Yugoslav contractors have also worked on a wide range of construction schemes, including oilfield development, building of roads, houses, dams and power plants.

According to estimates made in the Arab Unified Economic Report, 1988, issued by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund in co-operation with the Arab League and other Arab agencies, socialist countries accounted for only 4 per cent (or \$3,600 million worth) of Arab imports in 1986 (the last year for which data are available) and took just 3 per cent (or \$2,100 million worth) of Arab exports in that year. On a bilateral basis, however, trade between the Soviet Union, the Eastern bloc and Yugoslavia and Arab states is sometimes substantial. According to estimates by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), for example, Romanian exports to Egypt totalled \$742 million in 1988 while Egypt's exports there amounted to \$526 million. East German and Czechoslovak exports to both Iraq and Libya were also considerable.

GCC links grow

Soviet and Eastern bloc trade with the six members of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) is relatively small but may well increase as a result of strengthened diplomatic ties. A new trend was set in 1985 when, following Kuwait's example, Oman and the UAE became the second and third GCC members to open diplomatic links with the Soviet Union. In August 1988, they were joined by Qatar. Saudi Arabia has no diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union but has had contacts on oil market policy (the two countries are, with the US, the world's top oil producers). In January 1988, the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal visited Moscow and at the end of that year the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister visited Saudi Arabia for talks on Afghanistan following the Soviet decision to withdraw its troops from that country. More recently, Saudi-Soviet discussions have taken place on joint oil projects. Saudi Arabia's ARAMCO, now the world's largest oil company, is providing technology to modernise Soviet oil extraction and refining operations.

Building foundation collapses

Residents panic

RESIDENTS of one of the residential complexes in Sabah Al Salem district have reportedly deserted the building in panic using the elevators and exit staircases when they heard the resounding sound of an explosion inside the ten-storey building containing more than 200 flats.

The residents crowded out-

side and refused to return to their flats after discovering that the building foundations had collapsed.

A local daily interviewed a few residents of the building who said that the collapse led to the damage of seven power and water cables, and that the complex suffered from water leakage for three years running despite the regular main-

tenance.

The acting director-general of Kuwait Municipality Sheikh Jaber Al Ali paid an inspection visit to the area and reassured the residents that the problem was but a simple one and they need not be alarmed.

The local daily revealed that the ground depression was caused by water leakage.



Haj caravans

Kuwait haj caravans started their journey to the holy lands through Makkah and Medina roads. Other haj caravans will start the journey to Jeddah on June 22, 1990.

A large number of friends and relatives stood by to see off hajis. On the other hand, official sources at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs stated that all caravans are prepared and ready to provide hajis

with the best services. The sources added that the ministry pays high attention to hajis and caravan owners requested hajis to comply with departure times of their caravans.

The ministry has prepared haj housing in Azeziya in Saudi Arabia last May in addition to providing caravan owners many services and the medical delegation.



Fahaheel Pak School scores 100 pc

ACCORDING to FBISE Islamabad Result Gazette notification of SSC Annual Exam 1990, Fahaheel Pakistani School has showed distinctive performance as usual among Pakistani Schools (G. Group) over here in Kuwait, securing 100 pc and has acquired 2nd position scoring 94.44 pc as a whole. The salient features of result per institution-wise performance according to gazette notification: Al

Shaab Pakistani School 100 pc. Modern Pakistani School 81.25 pc and Pakistan School & College 77.69 respectively. In Science Group Al Shaab Pakistani School 100 pc. Fahaheel Pakistani School 93.33 pc. Pakistan School & College 82.65 and Modern Pakistani School 81.48 pc.

In General Group Fahaheel Pakistani School 100 pc. Modern Pakistani School 80.59 pc and

Pakistan School & College 62.50 pc.

Zeshan Munir topped the school list obtaining 708 marks grade A1 enlisting his position in the FBISE merit list.

The other out-standing declared were Arjuman Ara, 657A, Khuram Hanif, 638A, Farzana Bashir, 604A, and Tahira Sultana, 596A. Tahira Sultana has the general group of the institution.

Orphans sponsored

ACCORDING to an official at the Zakat House, the Orphan Guardianship Project sponsored by the house is one of the leading charity projects in the Arab and Islamic world. It was established in response to the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and has now expanded its activities to include 29 countries.

The official said that during the first five months of the current year, the number of new orphans sponsored by the project reached 1,084, adding that the total number of orphans sponsored under his project since its establishment in October 1983 increased to 17,577.

He pointed out that during the same period a total of 813 new sponsors contributing to the project budget, bringing the overall number of sponsors since its establishment to 12,853. Total cash payments collected for the project during the period from

January to May 1990 reached KD386,000.

He added that the house took orphans under the wing of its sponsorship who reside in 29 different countries through the various Islamic charity organisations totalling so far 80 bodies and 16 more are currently preparing to join in the project.

He said that the house received over the past five months 69 delegations from different Islamic countries in the world with home discussions centred on the existing conditions of orphans in different countries and means provided to them.

It is noteworthy that the orphan under this project is provided with housing, food, clothing, health care, education, schooling and other essential necessities, varying according to the living standards in their own countries, he commented that the house has supervisory offices to oversee the different activities.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

اهلاً وسهلاً ومرحباً

مسئله كشمير پر پاکستان قومی وفد کے سربراہ، عالم اسلام، مظہر الدین امیر جامعہ اسلامیہ پاکستان شیخ قاضی حسین احمد المحرم اور ان کے وفد کے سربراہان کیلئے ہزاروں اسلامی ملکوں کی تہنیتیں اور دعائیں ہیں۔

مظہر الدین، ان میں خوش آمدید کہتے ہوئے مسلمان "کشمیر کے ساتھ مکمل یکجہتی کا اظہار کرتے ہیں۔"

لجنة التربية الاسلامية - كويت

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE farther backward you look, the farther forward you are likely to see — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

Gaza Strip time-bomb

Beaches under sewage threat

OCCUPIED GAZA. (Reuters): The biggest threat to Israeli beaches may come not from seaborne Palestinian commandos but a rising tide of sewage washing up from the occupied Gaza Strip.

Whatever the fate of the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories, still burning strongly in its 31st month, experts say the narrow coastal strip with an exploding population and no natural resources is a time-bomb ticking in Israel's backyard.

Untreated sewage, festering in unpaved, overcrowded refugee camps and pouring into the Mediterranean Sea, is just one hazard in what a UN official called "a vicious circle of sanitary and environmental problems."

They include tapeworms gnawing away at the intestines of many Palestinian children, and salt seeping into the area's wells, threatening the drinking water.

Time-bomb

"Gaza is a sewage time-bomb waiting to explode," said Joyce Starr, co-chairman of the Global Strategy Council, a US-based think-tank working on world water problems.

"People rarely think of sewage as a strategic issue, but even if there is a peace agreement with Israel, Gaza has reached the limits of its disposable water resources," she said.

Starr said Israel refuses to invest in the infrastructure of the Gaza Strip, a sandy plain 45 km (five miles) wide, which the Jewish state captured from Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

Two UN agencies have plans to build a sewage system there but do not have the \$50 million the project would cost.

"If I may be really cynical: if something really disastrous happened, we might get the money," said Jan Dahlman, a Swedish water expert with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA).

He said raw sewage from most of Gaza city and the giant Shati refugee camp was currently going directly into the sea.

With Scandinavian understatement, he added: "I wouldn't recommend swimming off the Gaza coast."

Prevailing currents carried the sewage northwards to Israel across an invisible sea border which no navy can seal, he said.

No one knows exactly how many people live in the Gaza Strip but the density is one of the highest in the world, comparable with Calcutta.

Population

Israeli occupation authorities, in a classified 1987 study completed on the eve of the intifada (uprising), estimated the population at 634,000 and forecast it would soar to one million by the year 2000.

The impoverished Gaza population is largely dependent on work in Israel for subsistence.

There are few local jobs — UNRWA is the biggest employer with 4,500 staff — but some 60,000 Palestinians commute daily to menial jobs in the Jewish state.

UNRWA officials say there has been something of a baby boom during the uprising, perhaps because many families have been confined to their homes for prolonged periods under curfew.

Among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, having many children is seen as an Islamic duty and a nationalist achievement.

A slogan often heard in the refugee camps says: "We are making the revolution in our beds."

The few development projects in which Israel was engaged before the intifada stopped once the revolt erupted.

A showcase rehabilitation programme allowing refugees to build their own homes in government housing projects outside the camps has been frozen for two-and-a-half years.

In 10 years, about 70,000 refugees were rehoused in four neighbourhoods outside the camps.

But even while it was in operation, population growth far outstripped the rate of building of new housing.

UNRWA officials say the Israeli programme compounded the overcrowding problem because a condition of rehabilitation was that the refugees destroy their camp shelter, leaving the plot disused.

Housing

No new housing may be built in the camps and Israel does not allow the building of a second storey on refugee shelters.

In winter, cesspits overflow, flooding homes in low-lying areas of the camps. Children play knee-deep in sewage water.

In summer, untreated sewage seeping into the Wadi Gaza river bed draws swarms of mosquitoes spreading disease.

"Intestinal parasites are a major problem. Among children in the camps, not less than 50 per cent have this infestation," says Dr Iyad Al Rayyes, an UNRWA health official.

He said health conditions had improved in the Gaza Strip. Ten years ago, gastroenteritis from contaminated food and water was the biggest cause of death. Today the main cause is chest infections.

Israeli journalists Ehud Yaari and Zeev Schiff, in a recent book on the intifada, said the government quickly shelved the 1987 report on "The Gaza district up to the year 2000" because its findings were too unpalatable.

"This picture is virtually one of a human time bomb ticking away at Israel's ear, a weapon with the potential to wreak far more damage than the strictly conventional sort," the authors wrote.

"For unless some dramatic development takes place soon, it is Israel that will have to govern, employ, and create a minimal infrastructure for these swarms of people — and it can barely cope with the wretched mass of humanity in Gaza as it is."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1522 — Holy Roman Emperor Charles V visits England and signs Treaty of Windsor with King Henry VIII, calling for invasion of France.

1586 — Colonists sail from Roanoke Island, North Carolina, ending first settlement by English in America.

1756 — 146 British prisoners in India suffocate in dungeon which became known as "Black hole of Calcutta."

1819 — SS Savannah arrives in Liverpool, England, after making first Atlantic crossing by a steamship.

1821 — Turkish forces defeat Greek rebels at Dragashan, Turkey.

1862 — US Congress prohibits slavery in US territories.

1867 — Emperor Maximilian is executed in Mexico.

1885 — Statue of Liberty arrives in New York City from France.

1921 — Major European powers agree to mediate in dispute between Turkey and Greece.

1944 — US troops take Saipan Island in Pacific from Japanese during World War II.

1953 — Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are executed in United States after conviction as Soviet atomic spies.

1961 — Gulf country of Kuwait becomes independent of Britain.

1970 — Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 9 lands in Kazakhstan, establishing record for longest manned space flight at 17 days, 16 hours, 59 minutes.

1975 — UN secretary-general Kurt Waldheim opens first major world conference on status of women, in Mexico City.

1987 — Explosion in Barcelona department store garage kills 12 people and injures 31, and Basque separatists claim responsibility.

1988 — Bomb planted by Sikh extremists explodes in middle of crowd outside television shop in Kurukshetra, India, killing 15 people and injuring 25 others.

1988 — China's Premier Li Peng defends army's attack on pro-democracy demonstrators.

IRA gunman free in Dublin

British government infuriated

DUBLIN, Ireland. (AP): Dermot Finucane, Northern Ireland jailbreaker and IRA gunman wanted by Britain, is enjoying a fine Dublin summer, savoring freedom and drawing welfare cheques.

"It's a great victory," said Finucane, 29, who spent most of his adult life in jail or on the run. "For someone suddenly to say you're free... it's also frightening and bewildering and wonderful at the same time."

To the British government, his freedom is infuriating.

In March, the Irish Supreme Court refused to extradite Finucane to British-ruled Northern Ireland. It said his offense of possessing weapons was politically inspired, since the Irish Republican Army is fighting to unite Ireland.

The five judges added that Finucane probably would be beaten by prison guards if returned to the jail from which he escaped in 1983.

Ruling

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain called the ruling "deeply offensive" and said it encouraged "terrorists to the view that they will probably find a safe haven in the Republic of Ireland."

Disputes over extradition have long clouded relations between the two countries, but things reached a new low after Finucane and an IRA comrade, James Clark, walked free March 13 into the arms of jubilant supporters. Both had been convicted in Northern Ireland and sentenced to 18-year prison terms.

Prime Minister Charles Haughey's Fianna Fail Party, political heirs of the Irish nationalist heroes who wrested independence from Britain in the 1920s, is instinctively opposed to handing Irish people over to the British.

The IRA is dedicated to overthrowing the institutions governing the Irish Republic, as well as British rule in Northern Ireland. Ireland, like Britain, outlaws the organisation and keeps its supporters off radio and television.

Extradition remains a problem, however, because of the deeply rooted belief that an Irish nationalist will not get fair treatment from the British.

In the past year, British appeal judges have quashed the convictions of four Irish people jailed for IRA bombings in Britain in 1974 and three who were accused of plotting to assassinate a British government minister.

Six Irishmen serving life sentences for a 1974 bombing in Birmingham that killed 21 people have won widespread support for their campaign to prove they were unjustly convicted.

It all "reinforces widespread unease about the conduct of court cases in Britain in which Irish people are charged with terrorist offenses," said columnist Mary Holland of the Irish Times, which opposes the IRA.

Among those who got away is a Roman Catholic priest, Patrick Ryan. The Irish attorney general refused his extradition on terrorism charges in 1988, declaring British politicians and newspapers had damned Ryan in such intemperate language that a fair trial was impossible.

British and other Irish political parties are putting pressure on Haughey to amend the extradition laws. Critics want it spelled out that such crimes as murder or possessing weapons cannot be deemed political.

"The idea that such barbarism should somehow be construed as a form of political action is nauseating and immoral and cannot continue," said Desmond O'Malley, leader of the Progressive Democrats, the Fianna Fail's junior coalition partner.

Recent bombings in London have increased the pressure on Haughey.

The British say the attacks herald a summer onslaught in mainland Britain as part of the IRA campaign to unite Protestant-dominated Northern Ireland with the overwhelmingly Catholic Republic.

Haughey says a 1987 act curtailing the plea of political motivation will "do away with the present difficulties." He tells critics to wait to see how the courts apply the 1987 statute, which incorporates the European convention on the suppression of terrorism.

"Our extradition laws are amongst the best in the world," he told Fianna Fail's annual convention soon after Finucane was released.



IF YOU THOUGHT DUKAKIS LOOKED SILLY IN THAT TANK...

But delegates endorsed a resolution opposing any extraditions "to Northern Ireland and Britain in present circumstances." It said suspects should be tried instead under the republic's anti-terrorism laws.

Although Finucane's case predates the 1987 act, some critics say his release has undermined it and is good news for five Northern Ireland fugitives fighting extradition under the stricter law.

Cases still take a year or more to grind through appeals, and scope remains in the 1987 act for fighting extradition on political grounds.

Since 1972, Britain has made 112 applications for extradition of security offenders. Northern Ireland officials say, with seven granted, 41 refused, and five still being fought. The rest lapsed.

To Northern Ireland's unionists, the Protestant majority, Ireland looks like a haven for their terrorist foes. The British feel let down, because improved extradition procedures were supposed to be the reward for giving Ireland a say in the running of Northern Ireland under the 1985 Anglo-Irish agreement.

Ireland's Progressive Democrats began a campaign May 14 to toughen the extradition law, and found the opposition Fine Gael and Labour parties generally supportive.

Scandal

"It is a huge scandal that man (Finucane) goes free," party president Michael McDowell, a lawyer, said in an interview in the library of his home.

"I know how I would feel if I were a Unionist in Northern Ireland watching someone like Finucane, a convicted terrorist, kicking his heels safe and free."

At the downtown headquarters of Sinn Fein, the IRA's legal political front, Finucane retorted.

"How does a nationalist feel when a British soldier walks free after murdering one of us?"

Finucane is one of eight children of a working-class family in Belfast, and says his early memories are of his home being burned down by Protestants.

Growing up in a Catholic ghetto, he learned to hate the British and the local, mainly Protestant security forces.

"As kids we played the IRA and British troops," Finucane said. "You learned that if we didn't protect ourselves, no one would."

At 17, he was arrested and, he says, beaten by British Army interrogators. Soon afterward, he crossed the line from hurling gasoline bombs in street riots to carrying an IRA gun.

He married in 1980 and has a 9-year-old daughter with whom he never has spent more than two weeks at a time.

In 1981, police captured Finucane and two other IRA men in a car chase after an attack on an army patrol in Belfast's Ardara district. Their weapons were in the car.

Finucane was sentenced to 18 years in prison. He joined a mass breakout from Northern Ireland's Maze prison in 1983 and fled south to the Republic. Irish security forces picked him up during a series of raids on suspected safe houses in 1987.

His brother Patrick, a lawyer who defended IRA suspects, was shot to death and Protestant militants claimed responsibility. Another brother, Gerard, is in an Irish jail for IRA activity, and brother John Finucane was killed in an auto accident en route to an IRA operation.

Few blocks to German merger

BONN. (Reuters): The two Germanys came within a hair's breadth of merging on Sunday, their official day of German unity. There are few hurdles to stop them going ahead very soon.

In a heart-stopping finale to the day's events, East German deputies suddenly put forward a motion in Parliament to join Bonn's federal republic immediately.

The East German Parliament voted 267 to 92 with seven abstentions to consider merging with West Germany under a unity clause in Bonn's constitution.

The government, which favours unity but not confusion, nervously shunted the motion to four different parliamentary committees to defuse the political bombshell.

The astonishing debate, watched by Bonn's Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the spectators' gallery, only helped underline the fact the two states can unite whenever East Berlin wants.

Under Article 23 of Bonn's 1949 "Basic Law" (constitution), which has the goal of reunification written into its preamble, "other parts of Germany" can join the federal republic just by announcing they are doing so. Bonn cannot stop them.

"The Basic Law gives Germans in East Germany the constitutional right to accede (to the federal republic)," a recent Bonn government pamphlet on unification states.

"West Germany cannot decide whether it wants to accept a declaration of accession or not. A declaration alone by East Germany automatically means accession."

Other formalities, such as parliamentary votes to extend West German laws across both countries, could then follow the actual accession, says the pamphlet.

Revolted

Kohl and other West German parliamentarians were in East Berlin for the first all-German ceremony honouring East German workers who revolted against communism on June 17, 1953.

Bonn made June 17 its day of German unity, a holiday East Germans could not join in celebrating until their next protest wave drove out the former Stalinalist leadership late last year.

Kohl and East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere now aim for unity late this year, after merging their economies on July 1, working out the new state's military future and holding all-German elections sometime in December.

Letters to the editor

Air-India

SIR: Apropos Air-India manager's letter is a statement of facts. One wonders what's the truth! He is trying to wash his hands by blaming national carriers and governments. He has a predecessor, even when he knew the truth he tried to absolve himself by washing his hands publicly — Pontius Pilate.

For the corrupt and inept management of Air-India there's no other way than to fleece the Gulf passengers to show profit. Otherwise how could they obtain the unenviable listing of 41st in a survey by Fortune magazine of the 50 airlines of the world.

B. Varghis,
Safat.

One-Act Play

SIR: Thanks to IAC organisers for continuously adding spices to expatriate Indians' social life in Kuwait. Last of this series was One-Act Play competition which also by and large proved to be

a successful one. But the following observations must be seriously reviewed and corrected, where appropriate, by the organising committee in order to keep the right enthusiasm amongst participating groups:

Last year's competition was much more disciplined than this year's show particularly in terms of auditorium control during the performance. (In spite of low number of audience).

Selection of judges should not have been done based on their social or business status. The under-mentioned decisions are direct reflection of quality and capability of honourable judges:

1. For Best Actor Award, considering a scale of 10, scale reading '8' has got equated with scale reading '2'; unless the honourable judges were watching a particular person instead of his role performance.

2. Selection of Bengali Play as 2nd best... summation of stunts and gimmicks does not form a play... I wish honourable judges knew how an excellent and one time popular 2 hour play has been butchered by the local community to produce a cheap stunt in the name of One-Act Play. I have witnessed the translated version of this original play where the playwright himself

Does stage craft means capability to staff the stage with variety of items or should it help enhancing the theme of the play. This point also demands comments from judges' bench.

Organising committee should have had strict regulation of not allowing participation of such plays which were already staged in IAC during another competition with same norms. In amateur competition this is not done because then you are not fair to other groups who do not get enough opportunity to review their performance before the final show.

In summary, one is really curious to go through and analyse the evaluation procedure of the honourable judges to see how they could distribute the awards amongst various groups.

P.D. Kumar,
Salmiya

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Romania

Govt rekindles opposition fear

BUCHAREST. (Reuters): Six months after Romanians excited the world by overthrowing a Stalinist dictator, they have got the sort of democracy most of them appear to want — one in which tolerance of opposition is restricted.

The opposition is cowed and questions the future after miners, fanatical supporters of President Ion Iliescu, were able to rampage through Bucharest in search of anti-government rioters.

The three days of violence "has upset and could upset the future of our democracy," said opposition Liberal Party leader Radu Campeanu, surfacing from hiding.

Spirit

The spirit of the young democracy born when last December's revolution overthrew communist ruler Nicolae Ceausescu has taken a battering.

Iliescu and his government rekindled opposition fears of authoritarian tactics by allowing unfettered violence by their own supporters in response to attacks on government targets.

Prime Minister Petre Roman said after the crackdown: "Nothing has changed with us as far as democratic liberty and the presence of the opposition is concerned."

From now on, it appears, opposition will be welcomed only in Parliament, where Iliescu's National Salvation Front won a two-third majority in elections last month, not on the streets and only within acceptable limits in the press.

"We had wanted to build up a constructive opposition, but now I think there is little hope left for that," said deputy Calin Tariceanu, standing in the debris of Liberal Party headquarters, sacked by gangs of club-wielding miners.

Supporting

Thousands of miners supporting Iliescu rushed to Bucharest by train when he appealed for help after government opponents set fire to the Interior Ministry and Police Headquarters and invaded the state television station last Wednesday.

The government accused the police of weakness in tackling the anti-government riots, said by Iliescu to be part of a well-organised fascist coup attempt. The interior minister was dismissed.

The miners ransacked Bucharest University and buildings associated with the opposition. Hundreds of people were beaten up in the streets as they hunted down suspected opponents of Iliescu and the Front.

Although Roman denied the government called the miners in, the scale and efficiency of their operation could have been achieved only with official organisation.

Iliescu told the miners to be the "guardians" of the sensitive University Square area, focal point of a seven-week anti-Front demonstration. The anti-government riots erupted after police dispersed the protesters before dawn on Wednesday.

"The miners cleared around Bucharest in trucks and buses, had no trouble pinpointing buildings to attack, were not deterred by the government's anti-riot tactic, glowing with praise from Iliescu for a job well done."

Rampage

Their rampage intimidated opponents of the Front and the government came under fire in the West, jeopardising vital economic aid, for using methods familiar under Ceausescu.

But many people, especially the workers who voted Iliescu into office with a crushing 85 per cent of the vote in last month's presidential election, appeared to welcome the rout of the opposition.

Columns of demonstrators shouting "hail to the miners" marched through the streets. People eagerly denounced Front critics to the miners.

The violence underscored a class divide in Romanian society between workers and intellectuals, many of whom supported opposition parties.

After attacks on the independent newspaper Romania Libera, critical of the Front, writers and journalists said the freedom of the press was threatened. Culture Ministry staff issued a protest against signs of an anti-intellectual witchhunt.

The Front assumed power during the December revolution in what opponents branded a coup. It later turned itself into a political party to contest the elections and won power handily through the ballot box.

Critics claim the presence of many former communists, including Iliescu, in the leadership made it the heir to the Communist Party's authoritarian style and last week's violence has added weight to their charges.

QUOTE ME

"The phone number (for the White House switchboard) is 202-456-1414. When you are serious about this, call us." — Baker in remarks directed to Israel's new right-wing government.

"The Soviet Union makes clear... their legitimate security interests have to be maintained and that this would not be the case if a unified Germany became a member of a structurally unchanged Nato." — De Maiziere.

"They expect to have something positive within an hour after the foaming starts, and about four to six hours after that, they'll have pretty good control if it's successful." — Coast Guard Capt Tom Greene on the fate of the burning tanker Mega Borg.

"We demand a chance to freely decide about our future — just like all other East European countries. Communists are now trembling because they know their days in power are numbered." — A leader of Serbia's Democratic Party to some 30,000 anti-communist protesters.

"George Foreman, he's a preacher. Being a Christian myself, I feel very inhibited having an argument with him. I heard him say once he fights because he needs the money. If you have that much faith you don't need that money. Maybe he doesn't have as much faith as me." — Mike Tyson.

"His Holiness showed he understood our problems better than we did. And no, he did not ask us to renounce the armed struggle." — Nelson Mandela on his meeting with Pope John Paul II in the Vatican.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Share prices sag

Dollar closes lower

LONDON, June 18, (UPI): The US dollar closed lower after trading in fairly narrow ranges against the major European currencies today amid uncertainty over economic data expected later this week. Gold was up.

Currency dealers said some market players were selling the dollar aimlessly and seeking to find a safe currency, but there were no major influences beyond anxious anticipation of further US indicators, including Thursday's release of first-quarter Gross National Product figures.

"No one actually seems to know what the big moves were that pushed it down today. We really don't know," a London dealer said.

"The major problem is that there doesn't seem to be a currency to turn to," she said. "They're worried about dollar because they're looking for interest rates to be cut. They're worried about the Deutsche mark because of German unification, and worried about the pound because it could be devalued."

The dollar moved down against the West German mark in Frankfurt, closing at 1.6835 Deutsche marks against 1.700 at Friday's close, and was also lower in Zurich at 1.4283 Swiss francs from 1.4445.

In London, the pound rose against the weaker US unit at \$1.7125 from \$1.7050.

The dollar retreated in Paris, Brussels and Milan, at 5.6745 francs against 5.6985, at 34.67 Belgian francs against 34.93, and at 1.238 US lire against 1.24275.

Earlier in Tokyo, the dollar eased against the Japanese yen in moderate trading as market players anticipated little possibility of a change in US monetary stance following last week's improved economic and trade figures. The dollar closed at 153.88 yen, down 0.64 yen from Friday's close of 154.52 yen.

Gold closed higher in Zurich at \$349.30 an ounce against \$347.50 an ounce and also was up in London at \$349.25 an ounce against \$347.50 an ounce.

Silver closed unchanged in Zurich at \$4.85 an ounce, but was higher in London at \$4.85 an ounce against \$4.82 an ounce.

Share prices dropped on London's International Stock Exchange today in markets depressed by poor economic indicators and worries about Britain's full entry into the European Monetary System.

The Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share index reached 2369.7 points at 4 pm, down 22.6 points. The Financial Times 30 index stood at 1910.6 points, down 15.3 points.

Dealers said the gloomy trading mood stemmed from a batch of disappointing economic statistics, which showed that the new poll tax and business rates had undermined public sector borrowing, while unit wage costs continued to rise.

The figures aggravated inflationary fears and deflated the markets' earlier hopes surrounding Britain's potential to enter the pound into the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS, dealers said.

An opening retreat on Wall Street amid renewed concern over the troubled Donald Trump empire pushed the FTSE lower towards the close of trading.

'Kuwait can support the world oil use for eight years'

US crude reserves dwindling

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

THE world's oil reserves may not last as long as the official forecasts say and more money should be ploughed into research on new methods to recover oil that is difficult to extract, oil experts have said at a seminar in Kuwait.

The world has enough oil to last one generation and a maximum of 50 years, said Dr Farouk Ali of Alberta University, Canada. He also questioned the validity of Gulf states' claims of reserves large enough to last more than 100 years.

Speaking on enhanced oil recovery he pointed out that US oil reserves are dwindling, the North Sea oilfields are drying up and Mexico has served notice saying after 1995 it will no longer be able to export oil to the United States. This means that the focus will be on the Middle East producers and they might have to pump up much more oil than



Dr Abbas Ali Khan

their current output, lowering their reserves rapidly.

"The life of oil reserves is deceptive. Rather than say that Kuwait has 120 years worth of oil reserves we should say that Kuwait can support the world oil consumption for eight years," he said.

The question of reserves in the



Dr Farouk Ali

Gulf states has always been a tricky one because of its political and economic implications. Although a country may lie on a sea of oil, if only a portion of it can be extracted its reserves would be small. Reserves are based on the recovery factor, which for example in the US is 33 per cent, said Dr Ali. In Kuwait



Dr Mohammad Salman

the reserves have officially been announced — they are just under 100 billion barrels — but even scientists do not know the recovery factor.

Dr Mohammad Salman of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research says a secret formula, unknown to him, is used to calculate the reserves. The figure, he

said, might not be accurate. The oil producing countries and Opec members in particular have a good reason to cite higher reserves in order to gain political clout, boost their country's economic picture and to qualify for a higher Opec quota allocation.

Scientists, who have sought to determine the recovery factor to verify the reserve figures have soon hit a dead end. Dr Salman said his efforts to find out the basis for an increase of 30 billion barrels of the UAE oil reserves within a single year ended up fruitless.

Experts have lamented the lack of funds to finance research into techniques that would help extract oil that is now inaccessible. Speaking of difficulties that scientists now face, Dr Ali said: "It is more difficult to recover oil from a reservoir than send a man to the moon. You just don't see what is happening underneath and field experience does not always yield the results obtained

in laboratory experiments."

Scientists have noted that it takes about 20 years of research and testing before a particular technique can be used for commercial production. This is a powerful put-off for financiers. With oil companies ready to spend only on solving day-to-day problems and governments unwilling to fork out unless their coffers are full, research is often conducted and financed by universities and research institutes. Dr Abbas Ali Khan of the Kuwait Foundation for Scientific Research noted that "we in Kuwait don't distinguish between expenditure and investment into research." Kuwait, he said, because of its vast oil reserves can afford to spend a couple of decades on researching new techniques. The investment will have manifold benefits when new quantities are made accessible to producers, he added. "The money is there, what we need is more awareness," he said.



Gujral in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, June 18, (Reuters). Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Gujral (above) arrived in Baghdad today for talks with his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz. The Iraqi News Agency reported. It did not say how long Gujral would be in the country, which is a major trading partner in India.

UAE fails to follow suit

Kuwait cuts oil output

NICOSIA, June 18, (Reuters). Kuwait has started cutting oil output but the United Arab Emirates, has failed to follow suit, officials and oil industry executives said today.

Opec President Sadek Bousena was reported today to have warned organisation members of an oil price slump unless they respected quotas set last month.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azagadeh criticised Kuwait on Sunday for breaking Opec's May 3 pact to cut total

output by around six per cent to reverse a 30 per cent slide in prices this year.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Bousena wrote to Opec ministers last Monday warning that crude prices could crash as in 1986, when they fell below \$10 a barrel.

Kuwaiti officials said recently that June output would be close to the 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) allocated by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The traders estimated that the UAE's June output remained unchanged from its May level of around 2.05 million.

UAE Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba last week renewed pledges to cut by 200,000 bpd to 1.9 million.

But the manager of a major Japanese oil company based in Abu Dhabi said: "June nominations (contracted cargoes) are still on. So far there is nothing of a decrease."

"The only cut that we know of is 50,000 bpd," he added.

Prices for Opec's "basket" of seven light crudes fell to around \$14.62 in the first week of June from \$16.22 in the third week of May. The slump was prompted by reports that total output was still far higher than the 22 million bpd level set by the May pact.

The price of that basket reached nearly \$20 in January compared with Opec's official reference level of 18.

Crude prices in new plunge

LONDON, June 18, (Reuters). World crude oil prices took a sharp new drop today with New York futures declining to trade at the lowest in 19 months because of fears that the latest glut is not going away, traders said.

The expiring July contract for light, gasoline-rich crude oil delivered in the United States fell 50 cents in New York to touch \$16.05 per barrel before recovering a little.

The more representative August contract for this grade, which is similar to West Texas Intermediate, fell almost as much to a low of \$17.05.

Declines in Europe were less dramatic but August futures for Brent Blend crude from the North Sea, the world benchmark, slid almost 20 cents. So did the key Middle East crude, Dubai.

"Markets remain under pressure because there is no confirmation that Opec producers are cutting output to reduce the glut," said Nauman Barakat, a vice-president in New York with trading house Shearson Lehman Hutton.

The accord was intended to reverse a decline which has taken prices down by about one-third since early January.

The key producers were said by trade sources today to be under pressure from Japanese buyers for easier contract terms and some dealers reported that speculation that they might bow to these demands also hit futures prices.

Trade sources have said that they are being pressed at least to match a cut of 70 cents per barrel on heavier grades which was made by Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, in its July Asian pricing formula.

Latest world spot crude oil prices (dollars per barrel)

Crude	June 18	June 15
Brent	14.85	15.00
WTI (July)	16.14	17.00
Dubai (July)	13.15	13.35

Mexico jolts Latin America

CARACAS, June 18, (Reuters). Mexico's bid to forge a free trade area with the United States has put South American nations on the spot — should they follow suit or stay on the fringes of a trading system dominated by North America, Europe and Japan?

Mexico's President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and US President George Bush ordered a start to exploratory talks on a free trade pact when they met in Washington last week.

A deal could lead to the creation of a vast North American free trade area encompassing Mexico, the United States and Canada. Negotiations should move into high gear by December.

Many South American leaders are now weighing their options at a time when the region's share of world trade has dwindled to a paltry 3.9 per cent, little more than half the level of 30 years ago, analysts and trade experts said.

"This will generate pressure on other Latin American nations to try to get similar treatment," said Isaac Cohen, director of the Washington office of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The alternative for Latin American nations is to make themselves more attractive to foreign investors by forming their own free trade area, but this is thought unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future.

"I think a regional free trade area is very unlikely in the short-term," said Carlos Perez del Castillo, secretary of the Caracas-based Latin American Economic System (Sela). "The tendency will be for a few nations to work together in certain areas."

Brazil's Foreign Minister Fernando Rezak said on a visit to Argentina last week to review a trade pact between the two nations. "The idea of integration in the region has existed for decades, but it has not been put into practice yet."

In the absence of a clear trend towards regional integration, Washington is eager to offer free trade agreements to all comers in Latin America.

At a meeting of the Organisation of American States in Asuncion, Paraguay, earlier this month, US trade representative Carla Hills sought to allay fears that Mexico was being singled out for special treatment.

Sally Shelton Colby, a prominent US business consultant who travels frequently to Latin America, said she believed that Chile and possibly Argentina might soon seek their own free trade pacts with Washington.

"The United States has already granted preferential trade terms to Caribbean nations, through the Caribbean basin initiative, and to Andean countries," she said.

Mexico's decision appears to have caused resentment among some of its southern neighbours, who see the country turning its back on Latin America, although there is recognition the Mexicans are acting in their best interests.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

TOKYO, June 18, (Reuters). The market closed lower in very thin trading.

A lack of fresh news related to currencies or interest rates and caution ahead of Tuesday's Japanese money supply data helped dampen interest. The Nikkei fell 161.60 or 32.376.80.

SYDNEY: The market closed firmer in relatively featureless trade dominated by turnover in major banking stocks. The All Ordinaries index closed up 3.6 at 506.1.

HONG KONG: Closed for Queen's birthday holiday. The Hang Seng index closed on Friday at 3,201.52, up 9.97.

SINGAPORE: Prices closed mixed in thin and very quiet trading after selective bargain-hunting alternated with some selling. However, large gains in some stocks on the Straits

Times industrial index pushed it up 14.43 to 1,545.72.

BOMBAY: Share prices rose broadly as renewed monsoon rains brought droves of investors back to the market after two weeks of sluggish trade. The Bombay Stock Exchange index rose 5.37 points to 791.32.

FRANKFURT: A brief mid-session buying spree pushed the Dax index above 1,800 but buying orders tailed off as prices rose. The index closed at 1,797.42, up 5.16.

ZURICH: Shares closed broadly lower in light volume. The SPI index fell 6.8 points to 1,179.1.

PARIS: Prices were lower by mid-day, testing resistance around the key 2,000 level on the CAC-40 index. At 1115 GMT the index was down 12.47 to 1,999.40.

KD market picks up

KUWAIT, June 18, (Reuters). The Kuwaiti Dinar interbank deposit market picked up a little today after two days of inactivity over the European weekend, but still there was not a great deal of business, dealers said.

There was some liquidity in short dates, they said, and overnight dealt at eight per cent. Tomorrow/next was quoted at 8-3/8 eight, spot/next at 8-1/2 8-1/8, and one week at 8-1/2 8-1/4. Fixed dates were generally quiet, and one month was quoted at 8-11/16 8-7/16, three months at 8-3/4 8-1/2, and six months and one year at 8-13/16 8-9/16. The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29248/58 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, the Saudi riyal interbank deposit market was largely unchanged today, after a morning which saw little activity, dealers said. Although there was some business, activity was below average for today, they said. Spot/next was quoted at 7-7/8 7-5/8 per cent, and one week at 8-3/16 7-3/4.

Rates for fixed dates were basically the same as Sunday's and one month was quoted at 8-1/16 7-7/8, three months at 8-3/16 eight, six months at 8-1/4 8-1/16, and one year at 8-3/8 8-3/16. The spot riyal was being quoted around 3.7501/4 to the dollar.

ADB grants loans

MANILA, June 18, (UPI): The Asian Development Bank said today it has approved a \$468,000 technical assistance grant to finance a study on technical and vocational education in Malaysia.

The Manila-based bank said the grant aims to study and rationalise education and training of skilled manpower to meet growing needs of manufacturing, agricultural and service sectors.

ADB also announced the approval of three other technical assistance grants:

— \$446,000 for three training workshops over three years for staffs of supreme audit institutions in Asia which play important roles in implementing development projects.

Joint efforts needed to compete in the cut-throat world of civil aviation

This is the second part of this article. The first part appeared in the Arab Times on June 18.

One step on the road to increased co-operation is the recent agreement by eight Arab carriers to develop one centralised computer reservation and booking system. Airlines participating in the new agreement are — Emirates Airlines, Saudia, Kuwait Airways, Royal Jordanian, Egypt Air, Iraqi Airways, Syrian Airways and Yemenia. This is a significant development for the Middle East airlines reflecting the need for joint efforts in order to compete successfully in the cut-throat world of civil aviation.

The introduction of the new 747-400 which is capable of flying non-stop between Europe and the Far East means that aircraft will no longer need to refuel in the Gulf. Major carriers such as Swiss Air, Singapore Airlines and Japan Airlines have already pulled out of Bahrain and Qantas recently announced a reduction

in its flights. Other carriers which have decided to terminate their operations to Kuwait are Philippine Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Alitalia and Korean Air.

The new long haul jumbos over flying the Gulf will mean a drop in air traffic to the region resulting in passenger loss. This would imply a restructuring of routes and schedules for airlines which continue to service the six GCC states. On the other hand, it will provide Gulf carriers with a captive market and should enable them to increase their market share.

An increase in business and anticipated rise in passenger and freight traffic have prompted the region's airlines to embark on costly fleet expansion programmes. According to the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO), Arab airlines would require about 150 aircraft in the next decade to replace ageing planes and more than 50 others to accommodate growth and development plans.

Finances required for an

expansion of this size are expected to be in the region of \$10 billion. In order to finance increased aircraft demand from the region's carriers, the idea of an air leasing company — The Arab Air Leasing Company (AALC) was first introduced in late 1987 with nine airlines showing interest. The new company is to be based in Kuwait with paid up capital of \$200 million. It will provide both operating and financial leasing to Arab airlines. The company is currently awaiting a decree from the government of Kuwait giving it special tax status, after which it will be ready to start operations.

The AALC reflects the growing realisation among the region's carriers of the need for closer co-operation in order to compete against larger international carriers. The surge in air traffic worldwide has increased the demand for new aircraft. There are long queues for delivery of aircraft and companies with the bigger orders and readily available finance are the ones that get priority.

Among fleet expansion programmes, Gulf Air is so far the most ambitious. It plans to double its fleet to forty aircraft by the turn of the century. The airline announced in April 1989 its plans to buy 12 Airbus A-320 jets and has also taken options on 12 others. The airline has also placed orders for six extended range Boeing 767-300s each of which is estimated to cost \$69 million. The first three are to be delivered in November 1990, two more in September 1991 with December being the delivery date for the final aircraft. Gulf Air is seeking bank financing for the six new aircraft and has invited bids for a \$380 million loan with a 16 year term. The deal will cover 90 per cent of the cost of the new aircraft and the airline is not expected to have any problems in raising the required funds.

The aircraft will be bought on a lease basis and the loan will be asset backed and is part of a \$2 billion expansion plan for the company.

The Dubai based carrier, Emirates, is also going ahead

with expansion plans. It ordered three extended range Airbus 300-600R aircraft last year valued at \$330 million and this will bring to eight the total number of aircraft operated by Emirates. The fleet comprises seven Airbus aircraft and one Boeing 727-200.

Kuwait Airways also has plans to buy new aircraft including the new long haul ones. Saudia has so far announced no plans for expansion though rumours of possible fleet modernisation abound.

With most of the region's airlines expanding and modernising their fleet, aircraft manufacturers are vying with each other for orders. Airbus Industrie has made great inroads into the Arab market and more than doubled its sales to Arab airlines in 1989. McDonnell Douglas is pushing its MD-11 as a replacement for the Lockheed L1011 Tri Star airliner currently being used by Gulf Air and Saudia. Boeing has also been doing well particularly with sales of its new extended range 767-300s.

Although the performance of the region's airlines has improved compared to the years before, the industry needs to adapt to growing global competition, as well as, the expected rise in fuel costs and airport charges.

With the gradual improvement of overall economic activities in the region and following the end of the Iran-Iraq war, activity in the shipping industry has started to pick up. Freight rates are rising as excess capacity is utilised and insurance rates have fallen along with a cut in war risk premiums.

The upturn was visible particularly in the oil tanker market with the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners announcing that 1989 was the best year for them since the early 1970s. The transformation of the economic and political climate has been to the advantage of the two local shipping lines which have emerged from the red by cutting costs.

(To be continued)



Ahmed Al Mishari

KAC to go it alone

Aircraft leasing firm planned

KUWAIT, June 18. (Reuters) Kuwait Airways has begun legal and procedural steps to set up an aircraft leasing company with \$20-million capital, chairman Ahmed Al Mishari says.

He was quoted by Al Qabas newspaper today as saying the company would initially be wholly owned by Kuwait Airways but would later invite Arab financial institutions and airlines to become partners.

The establishment of an aircraft leasing company, the first in the Arab world, was originally planned to be a joint Arab project with a proposed capital of \$1 billion.

It was due to come into being last year and buy 200 aircraft over the next 10 years and lease them back to Arab airlines.

Delays, however, have made Kuwait Airways decide to go it alone with the support of the government's Kuwait Investment Authority.

Mishari gave no date for the launching of the company.

Govt hopes to reach pact with IMF

Egypt hikes sugar price

CAIRO, June 18. (Reuters) Egypt, working to forge an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on economic reform, hiked the price of domestic sugar today 60 per cent, local newspapers said.

It was the latest in a series of price increases affecting most basic consumer commodities, and Western diplomats said the move risked the wrath of the nation's poor.

Sugar will be sold in state-owned co-operatives at 1.60 pounds (60 cents) per kg (2.2 lb) compared to the previous 1.00 pound (37 cents).

Most Egyptians will still be able to buy 750 grammes (1.65 lb) of sugar a month for 10 piasters (four cents) under a government rationing system.

The government is negotiating with a five-man IMF team in Cairo and hopes to have an agreement on reforms in place by the end of the month. An accord would open the way for Egypt to reschedule part of its \$50 billion foreign debt.

The IMF has been asking Egypt to reduce its budget deficit, reform its currency exchange and interest rate structures and place more emphasis on the private sector.

Last month the government raised the price of domestic cooking gas by about 130 per cent, locally-produced cigarettes by 20 per cent, wheat, flour and rice by 10 to 100 per cent and petrol and kerosene by 40 to 60 per cent.

An increase in electricity of around 40 per cent is widely expected to take effect on July 1.



Hussain Abdul Rahman displays his DHL calendar.

Hussain makes appearances

BAHRAIN: Hussain Abdul Rahman is a familiar sight in thousands of homes and offices around the world this month.

Representing June in a special calendar produced by DHL Worldwide Express, Hussain's face with sunglasses reflecting the DHL logo is being seen in the 190 countries covered by DHL's air express services.

Hussain, one of the first DHL Middle East employees when he joined the company 13 years ago, was photographed for the calendar in Bahrain last year by an international photographer.

Each month of the calendar features various aspects of DHL's global activities including its high-tech computer links, fleet of aircraft, advanced sorting facilities and local employees.

Demand for gold surges in Moscow

BASLE, June 18. (Kuna) Gold supplies to the international markets soared by over 25 per cent to 2,190 tonnes in 1989, the highest level recorded since the early 1960s, according to the latest annual report of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

The most important factor behind this increase was the sharp turnaround in official transactions, but there was also a further expansion of Western mine output and increased sales by the Soviet Union, China and some East European countries.

Although the demand for gold jewellery and other industrial uses remained buoyant, it was not sufficient in the face of such ample supplies to keep the price from falling during the first nine months of the year, particularly as the strength of the dollar tended to restrain investment demand for gold during that period.

In the autumn, the slight easing of the dollar, bouts of turbulence in the financial markets and uncertainty spawned by the profound changes in Eastern Europe combined to reawaken investor interest, and the dollar price of gold rebounded sharply, only to fall back again in the

spring of 1990.

In 1989, total mine output continued to rise in most major producer countries, with the exception of South Africa. Altogether, Western mine production amounted to 1,655 tonnes, up from 1,550 in 1988.

The largest increases in output occurred in the United States, Australia and Canada. In Australia production was boosted by the prospect that corporate tax would be levied on mining company profits in 1991.

Taken together, these three countries now produce as much gold as South Africa, whereas at the beginning of the decade, their combined output had amounted to only about 15 per cent of South Africa's production.

The dramatic events in Eastern Europe last year affected both the demand for and the supply of gold. Partly because of concern about the real value of rouble-denominated claims, internal demand for gold surged in the Soviet Union.

The amounts available for private domestic purchases, mainly in the form of jewellery, were, however, not sufficient to satisfy effective demand, which

remained strong despite a sharp rise in the administratively set price.

Soviet sales of gold in the Western markets increased because of the pressing need for foreign exchange. Some gold also came onto the market from China and the smaller countries of Eastern Europe. Altogether, the supply from these various sources in 1989 may be estimated to have amounted to roughly 300 tonnes.

In sharp contrast to 1988, when official purchases acquired considerable amounts of gold, 1989 saw official holders reduce their stocks by about 185 tonnes. The bulk was drawn from countries' international reserves, and there was only a modest decline in the gold holdings of the international institutions.

Moreover, the disposal of official gold was not confined to the industrial countries, which had on balance tended to reduce their gold holdings in earlier years, but also occurred in the developing countries, which in the aggregate had added to their official gold stocks throughout most of the 1980s.

Gold loans, which had boosted market

supplies substantially in 1988, declined in importance in 1989. Because of large repayments of earlier loans, the net amount of loans coming onto the spot market from this source may be estimated to have dropped to under 50 tonnes, compared with 150 tonnes the previous year.

The manufacturing demand for gold last year remained buoyant. Continued growth in incomes and the weakness of the price of gold through the summer underpinned the already strong demand for jewellery, particularly in the Far East and Europe.

In Japan, the replacement of a 15 per cent luxury tax by a 3 per cent levy in April stimulated purchases of jewellery and similar gold products. On the other hand, the global use of gold for the minting of coins amounted to only about 100 tonnes, well below the peak of over 300 tonnes reached in 1986.

Investment demand for gold appeared to have been somewhat more broadly based in 1989 than in the previous year, when such purchases were concentrated in the Far East. After a phase of manifest indifference, European and North

American investors began to show some renewed, albeit transitory, interest in gold towards the end of the year.

Since the middle of the 1970s the dollar price of gold has fluctuated widely, peaking at \$850 in 1980 and subsequently falling back to trade in the \$300-500 range. Although it has tended to move roughly in sympathy with average non-energy commodity prices, the amplitude of its fluctuations has been much greater.

The report notes that in some contrast to the usual cyclical pattern, the decline in the gold price since late 1987 has occurred against a background of continuing robustness of commodity prices.

Part of the explanation may be that, as from 1983, there has been a fairly close inverse relationship between the dollar price of gold and the strength of the US currency vis-a-vis the major European currencies.

Some non-dollar-based investors appear to treat gold as an alternative to dollar-denominated financial assets, increasing their gold purchases when the dollar weakens. Conversely, the gradual recovery of the dollar since 1988 seems to have discouraged investor demand.

Cheap air fares move

EEC likely to sign accord

BRUSSELS, June 18. (Reuters) Air travellers in Europe should pay less for their tickets and enjoy a wider choice of destinations and services under a European Economic Community agreement expected to be finalised this week.

Although some differences still need to be resolved, officials are confident EEC transport ministers will approve measures aimed at stepping up competition between airlines at a two-day meeting in Luxembourg starting today.

The package builds on a first stage of liberalisation which has been in force since 1988 but which officials acknowledge has had little impact on Europe's notoriously expensive, government-controlled air fares.

The new measures, agreed in outline last December and due to be finalised at the meeting, mean that from later this year carriers

will have greater flexibility to offer cheap tariffs.

Creating scope for new services, rules limiting the number of carriers on a particular route will also be further relaxed.

So too will capacity limitations. By mid-1992 governments will be able to guarantee their airlines only a 25 per cent share of the seating capacity on a specific route, instead of 40 per cent now.

Diplomats said the package was unlikely to bring immediate major benefits for travellers.

Far more important would be a commitment it contained to liberalise the sector more radically still from the start of 1993, when the EEC's barrier-free single market takes effect.

This will mean that a cheap fare on a route between two countries will be valid, provided it meets certain criteria, even if only one of the governments

approves it.

At present tariffs require the go-ahead from both countries.

Furthermore, the once-rigid system of capacity limits could be abolished altogether, forcing airlines to compete genuinely for business with no safety net for the less efficient.

Final agreement this week on the rules that will apply until the end of 1992 depends on ministers settling differences over conditions that some governments want to add to the package.

Diplomats said Denmark was demanding that the EEC air regime be extended to Norway and Sweden, with which it jointly operates Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS).

Spain wants special arrangements to protect its scheduled airline against foreign charter carriers that dominate the Spanish market.

UK firm wins contract

JEDDAH, June 18. (AP) Britain's King Tadevin and Gregson Co. has won a \$19 million (\$30 million) contract to set up a glassworks factory in Saudi Arabia, it was announced today.

Saudi industrialist Mahmoud Saeed said production at the 200 million-riyal (\$53 million) factory, the first of its kind in the Middle East, will start next May.

He said it will have a daily capacity of 180 tons of glass products such as medicine containers, perfume bottles and tableware. Some 20 per cent of the output will be exported to Europe.

He expected production to increase to 400 tons later, with some being exported to the Far East.

He told the Associated Press that KTG, based in Sheffield and Southend, won the contract against stiff competition from West German, Japanese and American companies.

KTG will install machines, melt glass and provide training for the 200 workers.

Saudis deny report

Gold for sale

NICOSIA, June 18. (Reuters) Saudi Arabia denied today a published report that it had offered large amounts of gold for sale and reaffirmed it had nothing to do with the recent fall in prices on the international gold market.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said a spokesman at the Ministry of Finance and Economy issued the denial in response to a report in the European edition of the Wall Street Journal of June 15.

It quoted the report as saying prices of gold on the London market deteriorated on June 14 after the Saudis offered large quantities of gold for sale.

"Despite the fact that Saudi Arabia has previously denied undertaking any selling or buying of gold we have found it necessary to reaffirm that denial," the spokesman was quoted as saying by SPA, which is monitored in Cyprus.

"Neither the government nor any of its internal or external organisations have any direct or indirect connection with intervening in the gold markets."

Doctors seek higher pay

ATHENS, Greece, June 18. (AP) Tens of thousands of doctors brought state hospitals to a standstill today at the start of a four-day nation-wide strike for higher pay.

Over 70 per cent of the country's 10,000 doctors walked off the job but skeleton staff remained to handle emergencies, said Vassilis Laopodis, vice-president of the Greek Federation of Hospital Doctors' Unions.

"We just want to be paid for the hours we work. We haven't received a proper increase since 1983 and many overtime shifts go unpaid," Laopodis said in a telephone interview.

The doctors are demanding a 30 per cent across-the-board salary increase through pay-scale adjustments and the incorporation of seven years' worth of inflation-linked awards into their basic salaries.

A shortage of staff at smaller provincial clinics means doctors hit the overtime ceiling before the end of each month and do not get paid for further shifts needed to keep the hospitals functioning, Laopodis said.

Earlier this year, the state audit council ruled that public employees could not earn more than their monthly salary in overtime pay, a move endorsed by the government.

Import, export volume surges

KUWAIT, June 18. (Kuna) Import and export volume is continuously rising in Kuwait and sea ports, deputy director of the customs department Abdelatif Al Saeed said here today.

In a statement to Kuna, the official said the recent export and import movement indicates a flourishing trade to and from Kuwait, signalling a revival of active local economy.

Daily customs manifestations in Shuwaikha Port have risen from 100 in the past year to 300 in this year, while in Shuwaikha Port it reached 400 daily manifestations, Saeed said.

Concerning land border ports, he added that daily manifestations received by the department have increased to an average of 250 ones from 120.

Asked about the co-operation among the states of the Gulf Co-operation Council, Saeed said that co-operation exists through co-ordination and consultations on various customs fields in periodical meetings for GCC customs directors.

He added that the coming meeting will be held in August in the Omani capital.

No smoking on flights

BY the unanimous decision of the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Health of Greece, with immediate effect, no smoking will be permitted on the domestic services.

Olympic Airways, the national carrier of Greece welcomed this decision and implemented it on all its domestic flights covering 33 destinations.

This decision was well appreciated and hailed by the general public.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices			
(Rs) June 18, '90			
	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	494	497	498.50
Alum Chem	—	—	—
Alu Nis	—	—	—
ARI Fab	—	—	—
Ashtek Ley	77	77	77
Asia Paint	227.50	223.75	229.25
Asia Corp	36	35.50	35.50
Auto Corp	63	65	66
Auto Indes	422.19	467.50	470
Bajaj Auto	467.50	467.50	470
Bar Rayon	882.50	881.25	880
Blow Plast	—	—	—
Blow Dye	228.6	227	227
BK Bond	114	114	115
Burr Wel	70	65	70
Canshare	—	—	—
Can Enka	3700	3700	3700
Can Enka	3440	3440	3440
Colgate	221.25	221.25	225
Crompt Gr	1050	1000	1050
DCM	35.50	25	26
Deep Fert	29.30	29	29.25
Dunlop	57	56	58
El Hotels	58	57	58
Electors	98.50	98.50	99.50
ESSE Indes	783.50	783.50	783.50
Eskayel	131.25	131.25	131.25
Essex Sps	35.50	35.50	36
Food Spl	115	113.75	115
Forbes	51	—	—
Gar Poly	29.50	29	30
GL India	97.50	97	97.50
GNPC	36	36.50	36
Grain	124.50	123.50	125.50
GE Sips	44.75	45.50	44.85
GSFC	198.75	197.50	198.75
Gul Ald	143.75	145	145
Gul Heavy	15.50	15.75	15.75
Hero Honda	24	23	24
Hind Cba	1380	1375	1390
Hind Lencs	122	121.50	120.50
Hind Coca	143.75	145	145
Hind Motor	44.85	30.50	32.50
Hindaleo	198.75	276.25	276.25
Hoodies	1788	1780	1765
Ingersoll	215.75	222.50	225
Ind Org	1390	60.75	60.50
Ind Rayon	120.50	109.50	111
Indu	145	230	228.75
JK Syn	58.50	58.50	59
Kir Egg	162	162	162
Kir Chem	78.50	78	77.50
KSB Pumps	190	181.25	177.50
L & T	72.50	72.50	72
Lipson	76	75	75.50
Mac Russel	89	89	91
Mac Russel	120	120	125
Mahindra	81.25	82.50	85
Mass Share	21	20.75	20.85
Medi	805	805	805
Milkfood	132.50	127.50	132.50
Modi	65	64	65
MRFL Ltd	222.50	225	227.50
Nata Iron	16.50	17	17.50
Noel	1260	1275	1270
Nat Org	34	35	37
Nippon	16.50	17	17.50
Nippon	32.50	31.50	32
Oriskany	88	87.50	88.50
Prazer	235	233.50	235
Prin Auto	57.50	58.50	58.50
Rambaxy	99	97	99
Ray Wool	91	89.50	91
Reliance	215	213.75	215
Reliance	62.50	64	65
Sas Gos	90	90	92.50
Shaw Wall	—	—	—
Shree Cam	—	—	—
Shri Fib	47	43	45
Siemens	108	107	108
SKF	1495	1500	1490
Sony Corp	57.75	58.25	57
Stella	84	82.50	84.50
Tata Oil	—	—	—
Tata Chem	115.50	115	116.50
Tata Pow	582.50	582.50	575
Telco	139	139	139
Thapp Agro	—	—	—

Compiled by Kuna-India International Exchange Co.

West's high-tech firms still wary about trade with East bloc

LONDON, June 18. (Reuters) Uncertainty and caution. The watchwords remain the same for Western electronics companies which deal with Eastern Europe despite a big relaxation on trade in equipment once thought to be defence-related.

In the most radical decision of its 41-year history, the 17-nation Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom) slashed by one-third in early June a list of exports barred for security reasons from Warsaw Pact countries.

At a stroke, US officials said, the way was clear for American goods to the reform-minded East bloc worth about \$45 billion.

But makers of telecommunications equipment, computers and machine tools remain wary.

severe shortage of foreign exchange and grappling with weak domestic economies, must still face the problem of how to pay for such advanced equipment.

"The main obstacle is not Cocom but price," said Stefan Widomski, vice president of export operations for Finnish Electronics Group Oy Nokia AB.

East bloc states might turn to lower priced producers such as South Korea or Singapore, rather than buy from the West.

"Even if the restrictions are lifted, I don't think we will be very competitive," Widomski said.

Cocom, whose members include all 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation countries except Iceland, plus Japan and Australia, decided to ease trade restrictions on 30 of 116 restricted categories of equipment and plans to eliminate eight more categories by August.

The new rules will permit exports of the most advanced personal computers and some models of minicomputers and mainframe computers, previously barred completely.

They will also allow more sophisticated telecommunications equipment, enabling East European countries to gain access to desperately needed modern telephone systems.

Recognising a special situation in East Germany, Cocom eliminated all trade controls between the two Germanys except for a small number of items with direct military applications.

It also agreed to give preferential treatment to Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, which were deemed to be less of a strategic threat than the Soviet Union.

Companies and analysts were as yet unsure how much increased business the

changes would bring. One guidepost could be China, which doubled its high-tech trade with the West after Cocom eased restrictions there in 1985.

According to the economist Intelligence Unit, an independent London-based forecasting group, Cocom members shipped \$1.12 billion worth of high-tech equipment to Warsaw Pact states in 1987, but no one sees a doubling of trade yet.

Besides the east's cash shortage, there was also uncertainty about how each member of Cocom would interpret the changes, since each nation must decide how to apply the rules to exports.

Most manufacturers were awaiting more information from their own governments before determining the impact on business.

"We know the limits have been raised

but we want to know how far and we want to know what products are concerned," said a spokesman for French computer maker Compagnie Des Machines Bull.

A spokesman for Siemens Ag of West Germany, Europe's largest computer maker, said: "The Cocom decision will not have a direct impact. We are still watching what kind of opportunities the opening of East Europe would offer to Western companies."

There is an assumption that the United States, always the most hardline member of Cocom, would set the tone for the interpretation of the rules by other members.

Washington gave one hint of its view when it vetoed, along with Britain, a \$500 million proposal by US West Inc and British Telecommunications to build a fibre optic cable across the Soviet Union.

LAUGOLITA



Salonga, who plays a Vietnamese girl in the hit London play 'Miss Saigon' is shown above in a scene. (Reuter wirephoto)

Miss Saigon

LONDON, (CSM): It's three hours until-curtain time for "Miss Saigon," the blockbuster London musical created by "Les Misérables" lyricist Alain Boublil and composer Claude-Michel Schönberg. Lea Salonga, the 19-year-old Filipino star of the sold-out show, is guiding me toward her dressing room, across a set littered with realistic bomb-shell creators. "Be careful," Ms Salonga cautions, "this is meant to be war-torn Vietnam..."

We reach her brightly lit dressing room, with masses of cards from well-wishers lining the walls. The young actress, who has been hailed by critics as "a talent of shattering emotional depths" and "a remarkable find," sits down casually, knees splayed, devoid of makeup, like the teenager she is, to talk about the show and what it's like to be the London stage's most lauded newcomer in a long time.

"Miss Saigon," which opened here seven months ago to enthusiastic notices, is a loosely updated version of Puccini's tragic "Madama Butterfly" tale, set at the close of the Vietnam War. It tells the moving story of an orphaned Vietnamese girl, Kim (Salonga), unwillingly forced into prostitution in order to survive. It is written in a "sung-through" style, with no spoken dialogue. It is expected to transfer to Broadway sometime next spring, and the London-cast album is already available in America on the Geffen label.

Salonga was chosen for the role after a worldwide search involving more than 1,500 auditions from Singapore to San Francisco. Earlier this month, her portrayal of Kim won her Britain's coveted Olivier Award for best actress in a musical.

"Until we went to Manila and heard Lea sing our songs, we never thought that we would find Kim," recalls lyricist Boublil. "She is the most amazing and intuitive professional of her age that I have ever met."

Salonga is articulate beyond her years. Describing her feeling at her first standing ovation in a house packed with 2,500 people, she says simply, "My jaw dropped. I couldn't move. I didn't think I would have that kind of effect." Of the "Miss Saigon" experience, Salonga says the most gratifying part has been her recognition as a Filipino succeeding in the West. "I like being seen in that way," she says. "In terms of the star status, it doesn't really matter so much. It's actually making my people proud that matters to me."

The ovations are a regular occurrence now, but Salonga gives every impression of remaining unchanged by the adulation. "It doesn't really sink in — the star bit," she comments.

British co-star Simon Bowman says, "There is nothing false about her at all." Fellow Filipino actress Monique Wilson notes with amusement, "She's too humble! I don't think Lea realizes how big she has become."

Ms Wilson, also 19, who has known Salonga for more than 10 years, is the lead ensemble player in "Miss Saigon" and alternates as Kim in some performances. "Lea has always been an achiever," she observes, "and was a child star back home. But at the same time, she was also studious; she got good marks and was on the honour roll. She has always been extraordinary — in an ordinary way."

Salonga had her own national television show in the Philippines "Love, Lea," when she was 12. Despite her celebrity status there, she considers landing the lead in "Miss Saigon" a "once in a

lifetime" break. Though she appeared in a variety of top musicals, films, and TV shows in her own country over the years, this is the first time that she has performed outside the Philippines.

Producer Cameron Mackintosh ("Cats," "Phantom of the Opera," "Les Misérables") recalls the excitement she generated at the audition: To familiarise her with a song from the show, composer Schönberg played it three times. "And Claude-Michel never quite remembers what he has composed," says Mackintosh, "so there were slight alterations in each version. At the end of that she said, 'Mr Schönberg, which version do you want me to sing?' The producer breaks into a hearty laugh. "She had remembered all three versions; that's uncanny! I have never come across it in a performer before. It's a gift."

Surprisingly, Salonga had her heart set on becoming a doctor until recently. In fact, she had just completed her first year of medical school at Ateneo de Manila University when she got the role of Kim. "It's like 'someone up there' is telling me something," she says. "You're not meant to be a doctor; you are meant to perform."

Salonga, a Roman Catholic, says her faith helped her overcome the tremendous pressure she felt in a role that could make or break the play. During rehearsals she doubted she could carry it off. "But come opening night," she remembers, "after praying, I just felt very calm and serene, and went out there and did the show."

Salonga also feels committed to setting a good example for other teens; she believes that is something she can give back to the society that has made her a success. Two years ago, she became part of the Young People's Project, jointly run by the Philippines' Population Centre Foundation and America's Johns Hopkins University, to help promote "sexually responsible" messages aimed at countering one of the biggest problems among single Philippine teenagers: pregnancies.

Salonga recorded two hit songs with a well-known Filipino pop group geared at conveying that, in her words, it's "all right to fall in love and have fun without engaging in sex — that it's wiser to wait to learn if it's a lasting kind of love." She sang the songs on TV and in schools.

Salonga was asked to represent her country at a conference in Los Angeles last year, known as Enter-Educate, where performers from all over the world gathered to discuss ways of advancing positive messages on socially relevant issues through music, movies, and television. She plans to continue using her talents in this way. "You're entertained," she explains "but you're also being educated. That's very important to me."

And after "Miss Saigon"? Salonga is all too aware how difficult it is for Asian performers to make it to the top in the West. She is heartened, though, by some signs of change. "Asians are on TV everywhere in the States now," she notes, "and in nice roles, not just tiny walk-ons or in stereotyped parts..." She hopes "Miss Saigon" will give momentum to that trend and help persuade Western producers and directors to use more Asians.

Whatever happens, "Miss Saigon" had made it clear that Salonga's gifts of talent, character, and compulsive watchability are equalled by few others. "I think Lea absolutely has it in her to become an international star," predicts Mackintosh. "Indeed, she already is a star."

Making my people proud — that matters

Hanae Mori — fashion's 'madame butterfly'

PARIS, June 18. (Reuters) Long before the West came to know and love the likes of Kenzo, Issey Miyake and Yohji Yamamoto, there was only one Japanese designer who counted in Paris.

Thirteen years later, Hanae Mori is still selling her discreet designs to a market of sophisticated women.

The 63-year-old designer shows no envy talking about the younger generation of Japanese stylists, who have grabbed the headlines since they set out on the path she had already beaten through the commercial jungle and came West. "They are so intelligent," says "madame," as she is universally known. They have studied at university so long, and now they know the Western way. They are very different from me."

This is something of an understatement. While Miyake, Yamamoto and Rei Kawakubo at Comme Des Garçons have taken a revolutionary approach to clothes, pulling them apart and reconstructing them on starkly asexual lines, Mori remains faithful to her original formula of elegant tailored suits and sweetly feminine evening dresses.

"The Japanese designers want to do an abstraction," Madame Mori wants to

dress a woman," comments an old friend and business associate.

If her father had had his way, Mori would never have become a designer. A skilled surgeon himself, working in southwest Japan, he wanted his children to follow in his wake.

"But I hated the image of a doctor — the blood and the dirt. I wanted to be an artist, but at the time artists were regarded as communists," says Mori.

She ended up studying Japanese literature. After World War II, when she worked in a factory, she married a textile businessman and seemed headed for a life as the archetypal submissive Japanese housewife.

"Japanese society was so boring. Everyone was the same size and wore the same colour and everyone was so conservative."

The tedium proved too much. She started studying design and opened a dress-making shop in the north of Tokyo. The burgeoning Japanese film industry of the 1950s gave her career the boost it needed — soon she was designing costumes for the major directors.

Her reputation was established at home, but by the 1960s the Japanese film industry

was faltering, and so was Mori's business.

Playing with the idea of retirement, she decided to make her first trip to the West and spend a holiday in Paris. A visit to "Coco" Chanel's shop changed her mind — she was inspired by the Frenchwoman's bold designs and returned to Tokyo determined to revamp her approach.

In 1965 she launched her attack on the West, unveiling a collection in New York which convinced a sceptical audience a Japanese designer could cut for Western women.

She opened two shops in Paris and in 1977 she became the first Japanese stylist to belong to the Chambre Syndicale De La Haute Couture — France's exclusive fashion organisation. She is still the only Japanese member, despite her younger rivals' more extravagant commercial success.

She dubbed the "madame butterfly" of fashion — a reference to her favourite insignia, embroidered and printed on dresses and skirts, as unmistakable as Chanel's Camellia.

"The shape is so fragile and beautiful. The butterfly is a symbol of passion," she says.

Spruce in a silk shirt and black skirt, she limits her jewellery to a butterfly ring and butterfly earrings. Her hair is jet black and she looks younger than her years.

Mori has become a sort of honorary Frenchwoman and the special esteem in which she is held by the establishment was shown last year when she was awarded the Legion D'Honneur, France's most prestigious decoration.

She is now considered to be one of the most powerful businesswomen in Japan. She has designed clothes for every prime minister's wife since the 1960s and sits on government committees.

Her business empire, with a more than \$400 million turnover, encompasses fashion, accessories, household furnishing and publishing, with major outlets in Paris, New York and Tokyo.

Her achievement is impressive enough on its own. But for a Japanese woman, groomed to a submissive role in a male-dominated society, it is all the more remarkable.

"Of course, Japan is a gentleman's nation," she acknowledges. "But I had a very good husband and he helped me a lot."

Weak in the knees?

ARNOLD

SCHWARZENEGGER?

SCREEN tough-guy Arnold Schwarzenegger, movieland's Mr Invincible, who starred as "Conan the Barbarian" in 1982 and "The Terminator" in 1984, transforms into a complete pussycat when the topic turns to his infant baby daughter, Katherine Eunice Schwarzenegger, born Dec 13, 1989.

The rugged bodybuilder-turned-movie star melts when the subject is brought up. Yes, confesses Schwarzenegger, who commands \$10 million a picture, he is gaga over his daughter, a product of his marriage to Maria Shriver, the television anchorwoman, niece of the late John F. Kennedy.

"Katherine is fantastic," raves the new dad. "And, yes, I do sometimes change her diapers." Then the silver screen's iron man grins and says, "Let's put it this way... I don't stand in line to do it."

Almost four years ago Schwarzenegger, who literally muscled his way to the top of the Hollywood ladder — he won the title of Mr Universe five times and Mr Olympia seven — married into America's royal family: the Kennedys. The perennial bachelor, now 42, wasted no time settling into a spacious mansion just outside Hollywood. Then, after three years plus of marriage, he became a proud dad when Shriver gave birth to their first child.

Schwarzenegger is not the kind to publicly wax poetic about his personal life. But he's so bowled over by fatherhood that he sat in a Los Angeles hotel in blue jeans and a multi-coloured Hawaiian shirt and talked about wanting more children.

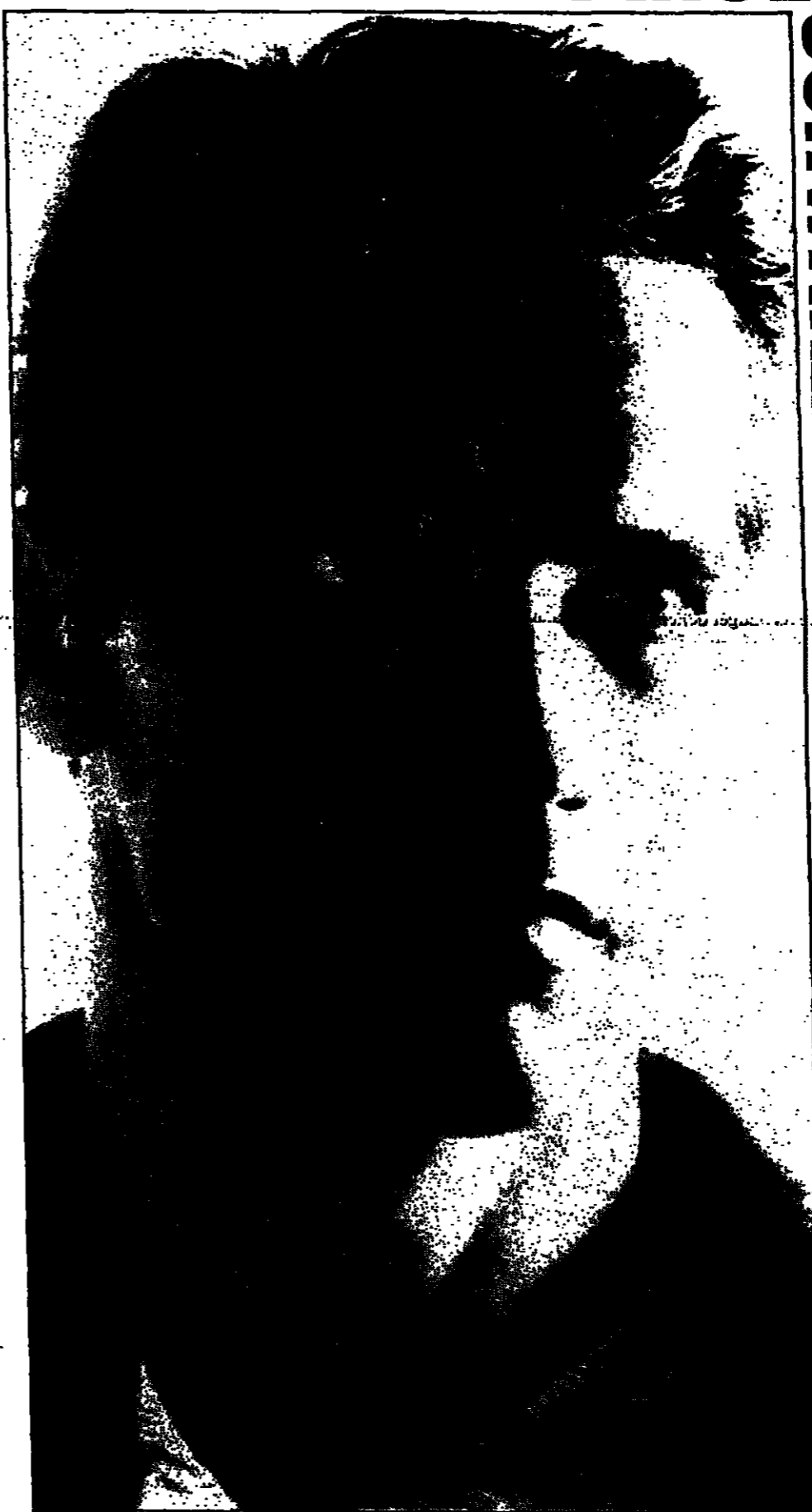
"Family is very important to me," says the Austrian-born muscleman who came to America as a young bodybuilder and has built a massive personal fortune from movie salaries, his share of box-office receipts, and property investments in California and Colorado.

In the '80s his smash hit films "Conan," "Terminator," "Commando" (1985), "Raw Deal" (1986), "Predator" (1987) and "The Running Man" (1987) collectively took in more than \$1 billion at the box office. Many more millions came in from his first comedy — the hilarious "Twins" (1988) with Danny DeVito.

"I grew up (in Graz, Austria) where family was a vital element," he says in his rich baritone with an accent that still owes more to the Alps than to Beverly Hills. "To be together with your father and mother doing sports or studying was always important to us. And the same goes for my wife Maria. We had the same kind of upbringing. We cherish that and will do the same with our kid — or kids. There will obviously be more than just one."

In Hollywood today there is virtually no one in a more cast-iron position than Schwarzenegger. As a bankable name, he's up there in the same league as Mel Gibson, Eddie Murphy, Sylvester Stallone, Robert Redford and Jack Nicholson. And when it comes to the lucrative foreign market only Tom Cruise outranks him in sales. But Schwarzenegger is gaining fast. Today it's his salesmanship skills rather than his dazzling pectorals that are getting the workout.

Schwarzenegger is talking up his latest film, "Total Recall," which opened nationally June 1. It's a razzle-dazzle futuristic thriller in which he plays a man who discovers he has had strange memories implanted into his brain which have blocked out his own memories. In an attempt to uncover his true identity he journeys back to



Arnold Schwarzenegger from Total Recall.

his homeland — the planet Mars. Part spy drama, part psychological brain twister, part slasher movie, it costs anywhere from \$50 million to \$70 million to make, depending on who you ask. According to the film's director Paul (Robocop) Verhoeven, it will show a side of Schwarzenegger that the public hasn't seen before.

"Screenwriters and directors have always put Arnold in the action-guy/hero role," says Verhoeven. "When you see him in action you start to think he's more body than brains. But Arnold is an extremely smart and sophisticated guy. In 'Total Recall' he's able to show all of that."

Perhaps that's why Schwarzenegger, who always promotes his pictures with the same gusto he displays when tackling a freshly dusted ski slope, is going overboard with this one. If there's a magazine that does not have him on the cover this summer, it's not for want of trying. He loves his film. If he could, he would go down movie lines outside

theatres all over America to tell people why they should see this film.

"I play a very normal kind of guy who works in construction. But he discovers he has another life that was erased from his mind," explains Schwarzenegger. "When confronted with this information, he can't distinguish between what is reality and what is the programmed dream. The audience won't know either — and that's what makes this movie so very interesting."

The role was once offered to Gibson, who turned it down. And at one time it was a project for Patrick Swayze. Finally, after 10 years of studio hopping and seemingly endless drafts of the script, Schwarzenegger, who had his eye on it from the beginning, heard it was available and snatched it up. He insisted on hiring Verhoeven and the two hand-tailored the piece to fit Schwarzenegger's particular talents.

It's the kind of rip-roaring, shoot-'em-up, super-violent

movie that has become Schwarzenegger's trademark and helped turn him into an international star. It's ghastly in its graphic, blood-and-guts, body-crushing mayhem — arms are cut off, heads are squashed and bodies explode. And through it all Schwarzenegger is his impassive, monotone, wisecracking self.

It's a shocking backdrop for the man who beams benevolently about the gentler side of life.

"I'm a very fortunate fellow," he says. "I have a great personal life and a great professional one as well. You find that very rarely in Hollywood. You always have one or the other — never both. I'm so very fortunate."

And while fatherhood is not likely to change the winning blood-and-action formula, Schwarzenegger does want to continue pursuing the newest addition to his repertoire: comedy. His next film will be played for laughs rather than thrills.

Going places with band Lucky 7

Rock

Lucky 7, "Feed the Snake" (Buy Our Records, Bor-C-025)

After listening to "Feed the Snake" you'll probably ask, "This is really a New York band? Building a sound on all this rockabilly and Faux Zedeco?"

Lucky 7 offers a good musical geography lesson, taking you from the revved-up twang of Memphis, Tennessee, to the sounds of the swamp in Louisiana. There are also side trips to the south for jumping Tex-Mex and north for a taste of Chicago blues.

The product is a rumping hybrid that shifts easily from one form to another and offers some of the best roots rock since the blasters were defused. The raving "Say You Will," with the up-town horns providing back-up, and the strutting "Blues in A" are the straight-ahead Zydeco numbers with accordionist Kenny Margolis, formerly of Mink Deville, leading the way. On the other end of the spectrum are the hard-rockabilly tunes — "Downtown Saturday Night," "Ready to Rock" and "Love You Anyway."

In between, there is "Walkin' Tall," a good example of the band's cross-culture "zydecoabilly." Just for fun are an accordionized version of Canned Heat's "Going Up the Country," Tex-Mex Treatments of Bob Dylan's "Night After Night" and "Walking the Streets" and "Bandito," an instrumental that sounds like it came from a Western soundtrack. (UPI)

Jazz

Marlon Jordan, "For You Only" (Columbia, CT 45200)

"For You Only" is Marlon Jordan's recording debut as a leader, and it is quite evident he is another New Orleans musical treasure — carrying on tradition and destined to make his own mark in an art form that runs in the family. He is the son of saxophonist Kidd Jordan and brother of flute player Kent Jordan.

There is a mellow confidence to his playing on this split session, half of it standards recorded in New York, the rest originals by either Jordan or bassist Elton Herron recorded in the Crescent city. He was 18 at the time, he's 20 now.

Saxophonist Branford Marsalis, from another famous New Orleans musical family, sits in on the standards ("Cherokee," "Monk's Point," "Stardust" and "Fall"); challenging Jordan with ferocious tempos and fresh approaches. To his credit, Marlon sticks right with them. (UPI)

Classical

Vladimir Horowitz, "The Last Recording" (Sony, 45818)

When he was young, Horowitz surprised audiences with his talent. When he was old, he surprised fans with his endurance. Now Horowitz has posthumously surprised everyone with his last choice of music.

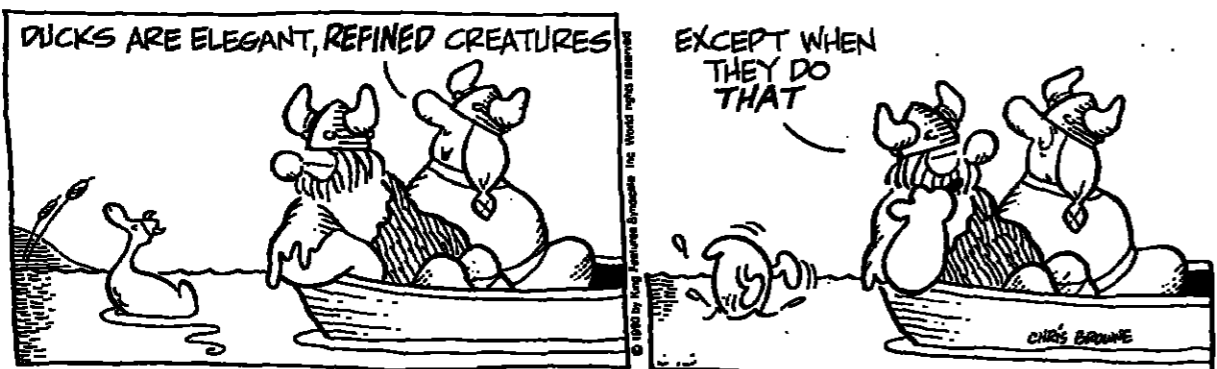
The pianist who single-handedly kept Scriabin in the repertoire, who championed the romantic and the emotional in music, left a final performance that features no Russian composers, while opening with a sonata by Haydn.

Horowitz played for more than half a century before showing any interest in Haydn, but intimates say in his last years he became fascinated by Haydn's music. This recording of an E-flat major Haydn sonata suggests that what fascinated Horowitz may have been the romance and emotion he spotted in Haydn's supposed restrained, well-mannered music. (UPI)

BLONDIE



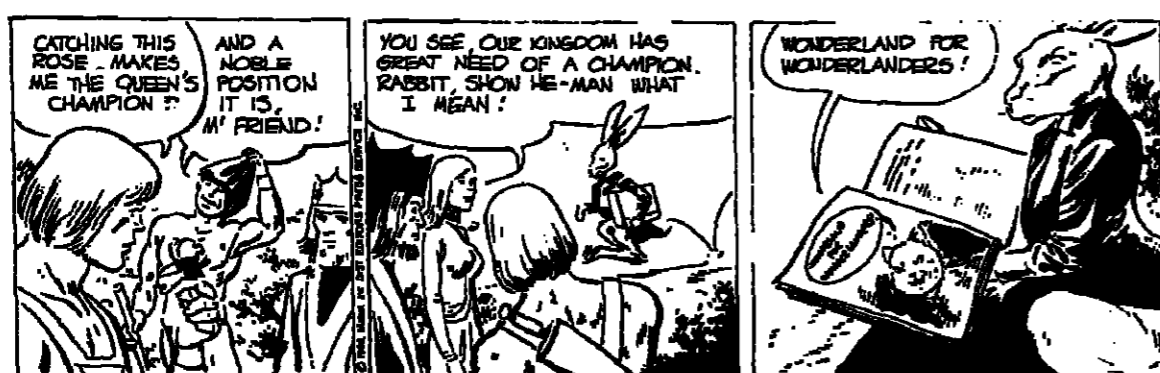
FACAS THE HORRIBLE



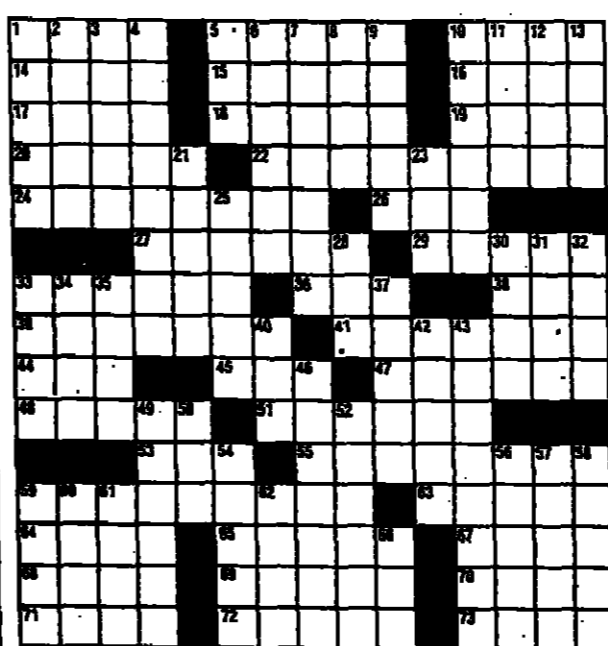
B.C.



HE-MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Metal strap
5 Pitchers
10 Adriatic port
14 — Ben Adhem
15 Jeanmarie of ballet fame
16 Surrounded
17 Willie Loman son
18 Consumers' champion
19 Street smart
20 Toronto Maple
22 Dough for desserts
24 Agreeable person
26 Impresario Hurok
27 Weedy grass
29 Part of a political platform
33 Protect, in a way
36 No. or So. state
38 "A — for All Seasons"
39 Companion
41 Highland instrument
44 Pinder product
45 Kind of whale
47 Parisian stock exchange
48 Stairway post
51 Swamp
53 Charge
55 This spreads quicker than rumors
59 Hognose snake
63 A Yokum
64 King Olaf's capital
65 "K — for instance"
67 Bakery worker
- DOWN**
- 1 He speaks, in Burgos
2 — Irish Rose
3 Davenport
4 Like a soufflé
5 Shorebird
6 Big Bertha, e.g.
7 Lasted
8 Offshore hazard
9 Toller's of yore
10 Actress Lauren
11 Famous —
12 Wild party
13 At leisure
21 Trap
23 Report from a toy gun
25 Corners
28 Retriever, for short
30 Mideast noble
31 Kindergarten breaks
32 Patella region
33 Religious relic
34 Dilemma
35 Merganser
37 Afghan capital
40 Ankara
42 Mrs. Meir
43 South American flier
46 Lace together
49 Try
50 Meadow
52 Building brace
54 Sides
56 Contract
57 Dodger Pee Wee
58 Tripped
59 Position at the track
60 Consumer
61 Elope
62 Gentle oath
66 Compass point

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

DELL ARACIA WELLS
ALAI MADAM ALLOT
BOMBOTOMATOSTONE
SPARES NERO NEW
ERAT CORALS
REL SLEEPER
APPEASES LENA
BLONDEMARKPLANT
BOUT CELESTAS
ATTESTS ESS
REREAD ATOM
AMA REAM ERASED
PEKOE-BIOS-SOMADE
ERIN LEROT EGOS
RENE ERNIE DECK

TOO HARSH A JUDGMENT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 10 6
♥ K 3 2
♦ Q 10 7
♣ J 7 3

WEST
♠ 7 3
♥ A J 10 9
♦ K 8 4
♣ A Q 8 5

EAST
♠ 8 5
♥ 8 7 5 4
♦ 6 3 2
♣ 9 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 4 2
♥ Q 6
♦ A J 9 5
♣ K 10

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Dbl Pass Pass
2 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠

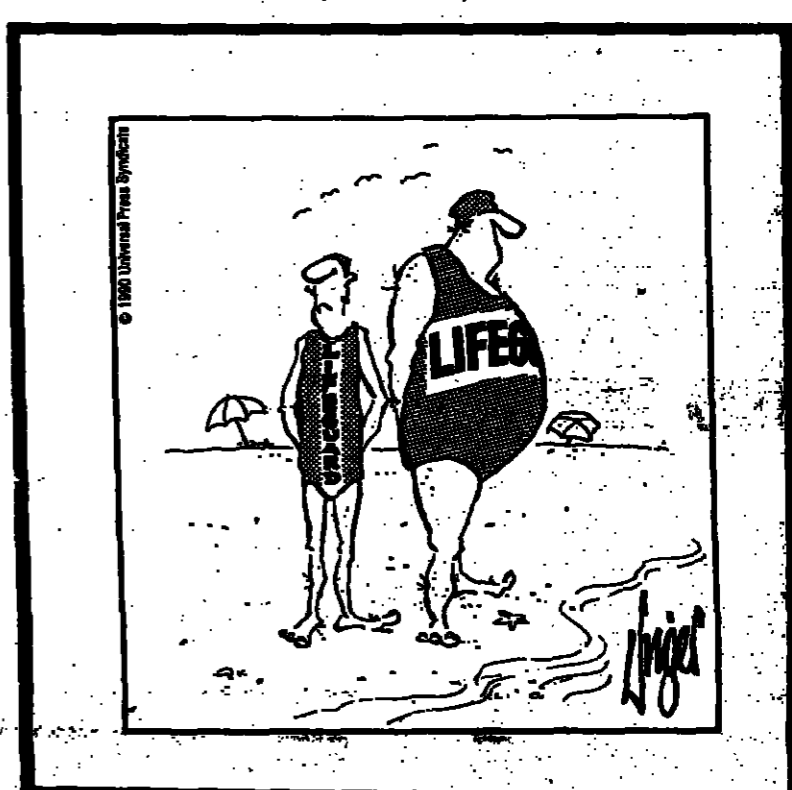
If you make an error at the bridge table, you deserve to be punished for it. But it is hard to fathom why, when you take a perfectly normal action, you sometimes also have to pay a fearsome price.

West's double of South's one-spade opening bid has the wholehearted endorsement of this in that suit to one, and any other department. Yet that action pointed the way for declarer to land his con-ruff in dummy while discarding a tract. North's bidding showed at club from hand. Either way, the least 10 points and a spade fit, so defenders would get only one club South felt he had something in re-trick, and three tricks in all.

serve for jumping to game. For the opening salvo, West chose a safe trump rather than risk leading from a tenace. Declarer won and drew another round of trumps, ending in dummy. With West marked for almost every missing card, declarer was in danger of losing one heart, one diamond and two clubs unless he could arrange to endplay West, and that is exactly what South set out to accomplish.

The queen of diamonds was run to West's king and back came a diamond to declarer's nine. Next came a low heart and West could not afford to rise with the ace without presenting declarer with a 10th trick. However, playing low proved to be no better, as declarer quickly proved.

Dummy's king of hearts took the trick and declarer cashed two for it. But it is hard to fathom why, when you take a perfectly normal action, you sometimes also have to pay a fearsome price.



Aries
March 21 - April 20
You should beware of all kinds of exaggeration. You will not have time to do all you would like to do. And you must make sure you find time to do what has to be done. Be cordial.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
Avoid doing anything that would be contrary to your principles. Do not think that everything is a farce, and do try to enjoy life to the full. Avoid having regrets, instead try to do better in future. Be receptive.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 23
Ensure that all your doors and windows are sufficiently secure: do not invite thieves. Attend to the most pressing tasks first, later you may be too tired to do so. Do not ask for too much: better 50% of something than 100% of nothing. Be helpful.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
An offer or proposal should be taken seriously but beware, it may not be all that it is made out to be — probably there are some disadvantages too. Do not hesitate to seek advice if you are not sure it will save you making a costly mistake.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20
Your enthusiasm will tend to flag, do all you can to reinvigorate it. You will find it easier to spend than to earn and must effect a proper balance between the two. Avoid closing your eyes to what you do not want to see. Be fair.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21
You will be able to come to an agreement about an important matter. Avoid doing anything that is not strictly practical. You are liable to miss the wood for the trees — try to ensure you do not. Be sensible.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 23
You should not hesitate to pay compliments and should avoid insults. You will have to act swiftly if you want to avoid a major financial problem. Trust more to your intuition. Be tactful.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
Make sure you do not neglect an infection and do not ignore a persistent swelling. You will be able to make good progress with a personal matter only if you persevere. You would do well to take gentle but regular exercise. Be observant.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
It will be hard to come to terms with reality but you must try to do so. Your lucky numbers are 19 and 37. Something that has been a mystery will now become clear to you. Have more confidence in yourself and faith in others. Be moderate.



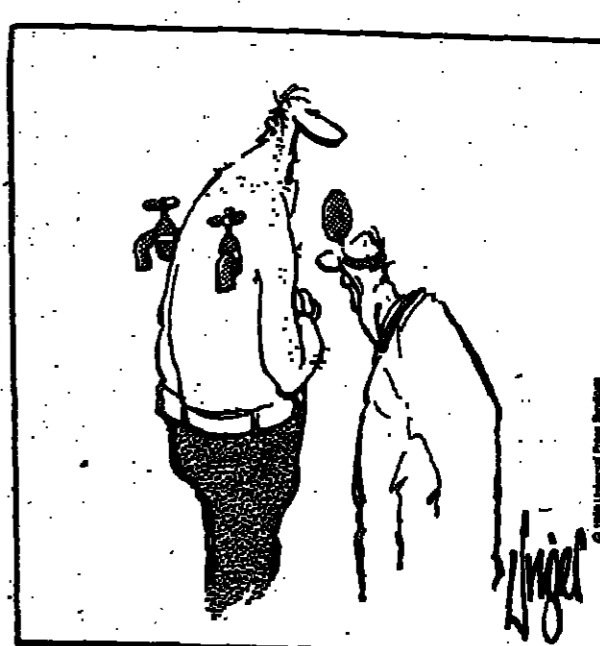
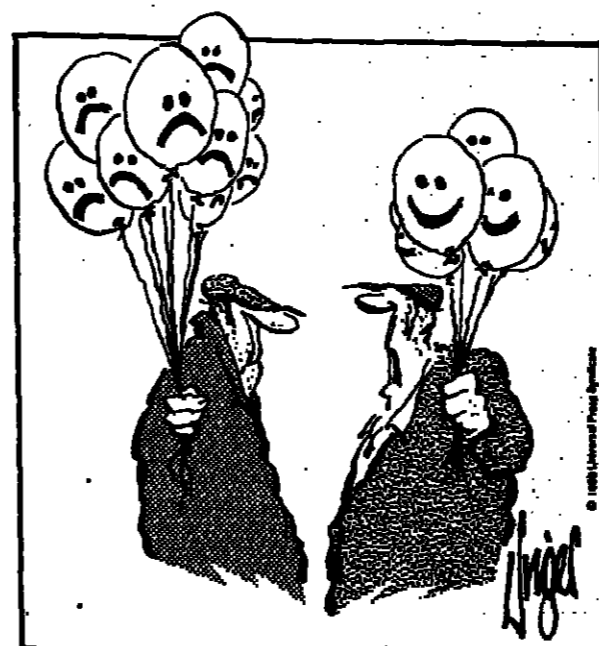
Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 23
Now is a good time to make some changes you have been thinking about. Avoid allowing your affairs to get into any kind of muddle. You will come to use a skill you acquired hitherto has not seemed much use to you. Be methodical.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 23
Take care, not everything is quite what it seems to be. So do be on the lookout for hidden snags. And do not succumb to high pressure salesmen, those who ask you to purchase without giving you time to think. Be frank.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A promise someone has made is likely to be broken, better to try to reach a compromise than risk a confrontation. Do check your facts and figures, they could well be out of date. You will tend to be sluggish and should try to use more will power. Be reasonable.



A world where stars get dress sense

By Claire Lockhart

GHOSTBUSTERS star Bill Murray threw a woman employee over his shoulder and ran amok. Lord Olivier sang children's songs and Dustin Hoffman caused chaos with an informal autograph-signing session that eventually blocked up the corridors.

What were they doing? Coping with the tedious business of being fitted with their costumes for movie roles.

According to Roger Tonks, who has measured every famous inside leg from Robert Redford to Billy Connolly, every star deals with the situation differently. Roger, head of the men's costume department at the famous theatrical costumier Angels in London's Shaftesbury Avenue, told me: "What I was fitting Billy Connolly for a film called *Bull Shit*, I had to stop because I was crying with laughter. The man does a cabaret act while you're fitting him."

"But that guy Bill Murray is bizarre. When he came in for his first meeting with designer Shirley Russell for *The Razor's Edge*, he didn't bring a bunch of flowers — he bought a bucketful. I think he had picked them up from the florists just as they were."

"We were fitting him and he suddenly went out into the women's workroom, switched on all the electric fans and started talking to them. He sounded like a Dalek. There was a female costumier doing a fitting and he just picked her up, turned her upside down and ran up and down the place with her over his shoulder. She wasn't very happy about it."

"Then he walked back into the fitting room as if nothing had happened and we continued with our work."

Roger believes stars should not be festered by "fins" among the staff — "this should be a sort of Shangri-la where they're not bothered" — but he concedes

exception was Dustin Hoffman.

When it became clear that Dustin didn't mind a few autographs, the entire female staff of Angels — or so it seemed — suddenly appeared in the mens department causing chaos in the normally sedate and well-run establishment. "It was really an hour and a half before I could start working on him," Roger recalls. "They all just filed in one by one and I stood there like a lemon!"

"Now Robert Redford I could understand... but what has Dustin got? If he wasn't a star, they'd just walk past him in the street!"

Someone Roger was in awe of himself was the late Lord Olivier, who came to be fitted for one of his very last screen roles, a TV drama called *Lost Empires*. "It was the only time I ever fitted him and I couldn't relate this white-haired old man to the star of Richard III and all those great films. He was just a sweet old man who sang nursery rhymes and children's songs while he was being fitted. I thought, 'Is this really the man every actor in the world wants to emulate... and here he is singing *If You Want To Know The Time, Ask A Policeman*'."

Angels, celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, is renowned world-wide as the leading film, theatre, and TV costumier. Roger, 47, explains how they operate: "The designers always come to us and we talk through the script and they give us their ideas and if we think they are wrong, we give them ours. Then we get the cast list and set the costumes up and the first fitting is always the most important. That's where you find out if you're on the same wave-length as the designer."

Stars may moan about a tight fit or an unflattering outfit but these days, says Roger, they are a lot less temperamental. "Years ago they used to be difficult and would demand the star treatment. But they



The mad-cap Bill Murray as he appeared in *The Razor's Edge*.



The late Sir Laurence Olivier spent tedious hours of being fitted for costumes singing nursery rhymes and children's songs.



The magnificent costumes used in *The Last Emperor*

don't now — the whole industry has changed. They'll come in — you'll do your job and when they're ready, they'll do their job. They may say, 'I don't feel quite comfortable' or 'This is not quite what I had in mind' but they don't get stroppy."

"You have to get on with them. You have to get into conversation with them about the characters. They will sink into a character while you're fitting."

"John Hurt came in when we did *White Mischief* and we had hundreds of clothes lined up for him. He was playing a really down at heel guy in Kenya during the Forties. And he put on one costume which was old and put on the hat and said, 'This is it! That's the part!' You're actually helping him to create the role!"

But things don't always go so smoothly. Directors have been known to scrap an entire wardrobe because they didn't like the costumes.

"Ken Russell has done it a couple of times. For *Valentino*, I ended up chasing Rudolph Nureyev half way around the West End trying to pin him down to fit his clothes on. And because he's not a film actor — he's a dancer and it was his first film — he really was not that interested. "I was going from one rehearsal room to the next with my arms full of costumes. I finally got him and he allowed me 10 minutes to do the lot!"

Angels' massive stocks — "many millions of costumes" — includes everything from original vegetable-dyed outfits from 1790 that still look vibrant and new, to clothes from Oxfam shops and market stalls that are considered ideal for some modern productions.

Roger told me: "Most of our costumes are revamped. With costumes you've just made, as the years go by and they get older and older, they become character costumes. Modern costumes might end up as a tramp's outfit eventually."

Historical detail is all-important and viewing the final film can be a nerve-racking experience. Roger told me: "We look out for the cravats being tied the wrong way or the wrong shoes with the wrong costume — because we send them out as a complete outfit with the shoes and the hat all on one hanger when they go to the studios. But sometimes things get mixed up."

"The more likely things to go wrong are uniforms because they get items like medal ribbon upside down or ranking wrong or police uniforms with the wrong division button on the front. We've got reference books on everything."

There are a few tricks of the trade which can cut down on costs, as Roger revealed to me. For *The Last Emperor*, most of the Oriental staff was made in the Orient. But we used this process where if you get a Chinese robe which is ornamentally embroidered with gold thread, we can now laser-print a photocopy of that on satin and it is three-dimensional. And although it is flat, it looks like the real thing.

"There are a lot of things that are happening now that weren't around 10 years ago, so that brings the cost down. So what you see is a row of 50 very elegantly clad Chinese, and all they are is satin with photostat print."

The company was founded by Morris Angel, 150 years ago, and he was discovered that actors were expected to buy their own costumes and were coming to Morris' second-hand clothes shop for them.

Managing director Daniel Angel, who represents the fifth generation of this famous theatrical family, told me: "Someone must have come in one day and said, 'Look instead of buying it, I'm only going to use the costume for two weeks — can I hire it?' And that's exactly what happened. And from there on we started hiring to management and productions all over the West End. And then with the advent of films we started to supply to them, too."

Television and pop videos have extended this field even further. "The BBC or any television company has a small wardrobe but it can only cover a certain period. We've got to be able to cover anything from 1200 to the space age."

The company employs 80 people in three main departments — Ladies, Men's and Uniforms. These break down into sections based on historical periods, etc. Angel told me: "Films and television seem to go in phases. You suddenly get a period which becomes fashionable. Last year on TV, everything was Forties and wartime. Other times it will be Victorian. So you're always adding to the stock. And even if something begins to fall to pieces, you can use it for working classes or for peasants. So the costumes have quite a long life-span."

The latest visitor to the firm's smart premises is actor John Goodman, who rose to fame as the husband in the hit sitcom *Roseanne* and is now one of Hollywood's hottest properties. He's in England to make a satirical comedy called *King Ralph*, playing an American who takes over the British monarchy!

Forceful yarn, well told

The Burden Of Proof, By Scott Turow (Farrar Straus Giroux, \$15 pp., \$22.95)

Alejandro "Sandy" Stern. You remember him. He's the leading defense attorney in his Midwestern county of Kindle. He masterminded the defense of Rusty Sabich in Scott Turow's *Presumed Innocent*. True, he was only a minor character in that tale, but now, he's the very human hero of his own novel, *The Burden Of Proof*.

Turow, himself a lawyer, writes novels about lawyers in the mornings and practices law in the afternoons. His lawyers are full-blown characters with human problems and real feelings and are full of human flaws. No Perry Masons here. Not really heroes either. Turow is a convincing and compelling storyteller.

In *The Burden Of Proof*, Sandy comes home from a business trip and finds that his wife of 30 years has committed suicide and that \$850,000 is missing from her estate. His marriage, family and career come under scrutiny. And he must defend his sister's husband who's the target of a federal investigation into commodities futures trading, a tangled web of wheeling and dealing.

It's a forceful yarn, well told. You'll be away all night finishing it.

Wildlife, By Richard Ford (Atlantic Monthly Press, 177 pp., \$18.95)

Richard Ford writes of fairly ordinary people, but of people whose lives are changing forever. Often it is a sad change, although not without optimism.

Ford's stories are remarkable, not so much for their language, but for the effects the words have on the reader. He is one of those uncommon writers with the brilliant ability to evoke sympathy for his characters with a few spare words.

The central figure in *Wildlife* is 16-year-old Joe Brinson, who has moved with his parents to Great Falls, Montana. Joe's father, a small-town golf pro, loses his job and goes to fight a horrendous forest fire that has nearly surrounded the city.

Most of the book takes place over just three days. Once Joe's father leaves to fight the forest fire, his mother has an affair with another man. Joe's father returns, but life has changed for all three and never will be the same.

Life in Ford's world is often capricious and only partly understood on an intellectual level. But there is a deep emotional knowledge. The characters learn that, despite personal attachments, they are ultimately alone.

Wildlife feels like a short story. It is over quickly — partly because Ford seizes the reader and won't let go until the end. But it is not a short story that has been stretched beyond capacity.

Ford's last two books (the earlier was the short story collection *Sock Springs* have concerned the West, the prepatetic author's most recent home. He has since moved to New Orleans, so his growing audience likely will be treated to insightful tales of the South in the future.

A Singular Country, by J. P. Donleavy (Norton, 198 pp., \$18.95)

J. P. Donleavy is going to be in Dutch with the Irish.

And can't you just picture the mischievous feller, nodding and smiling and saying, "Well, excuse me for livin'." as if he actually cared what you thought.

What the man has done here is write a few little essays for you, in dialect as it were, all about the quaint little ways of the Emerald Isle. Only when you pay closer attention you begin to see that he's really showing you the dark side of the clover, the seedy, sordid, sinister side of the homegrown Irish.

Donleavy turns his pen into a dagger so tiny and sharp it takes a while for the bleeding to be noticed. A reader may find weeks later that he's still not sure quite how he took these impish indictments. Seldom has anyone found so much that's perverse about the Irish.

Sullivan's Sting, by Lawrence Sanders (Putnam's, 384 pp., \$19.95)

Fans of Lawrence Sanders — and he's built legions with his score of novels — have come to expect tales of suspense filled with sexual adventures and detailed character development in his works.

For his latest foray, Sanders' *Sullivan's Sting* delves into the world of scams, focusing on master schemer David Rathbone who makes money the easy way — fleecing others with sometimes simplistic cons and sometimes with more complicated games.

But not on Rathbone's tail is a super-secret, law enforcement task force based in Florida. It's Anthony Harker's job, as a staff member of the securities and exchange commission, to put a stop to Rathbone's schemes.

Key to the investigation is Rita Sullivan, a sultry undercover cop on loan from Tallahassee, Florida, whose job is to collect incriminating evidence about Rathbone's investment, counterfeiting and other scams even though it means climbing into his bed.

Sanders' fans will enjoy some of the stings — especially the disintegrating phony money deal.

But the biggest con job may be the novel itself. Sometimes its lack of character development makes one wonder if *Sullivan's Sting* is the work of the same author who penned *The Timothy Files*, *Timothy's Games*, and the *Sins* books.

CINEMA

Summer movies

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD (UPI): Summer movies are different from other films because, audiences don't expect as much.

It's a time to cast off the profound and thought-provoking stuff of winter and enjoy some escapism with wild, outrageous comedy, action-filled adventure and breathtaking spectacle.

It's no time for *Driving Miss Daisy* or *Henry V* or *My Left Foot*.

It's time for *Dick Tracy*, *Gremlins 2*, *Back To The Future III*, *Total Recall*, *Robocop 2*, *Another 48 hrs*, *Die Hard 2* and others.

Last summer it was *Batman*, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, *Honey I Shrunk The Kids*, *Lethal Weapon 2*, *Ghostbusters II*, and other twaddle.

According to one thoughtful actor, all successful summer movies share a common element.

Robert Picardo, who provided the voice and likeness for Johnny Cab, the Martian Robot taxi driver in *Total Recall*, and who shines in *Gremlins 2* with the single funniest scene in the picture, propounds a theory that unless a summer picture jolts the audience a certain number of times it is doomed.

He is confident that *Total Recall* and *Gremlins 2* both meet his test for enormous success in the next two months.

"In order to be a hit, a summer picture must have a minimum of five special moments," said Picardo, a handsome, dark-haired actor in his mid-30s, best known for his TV series *China Beach* and such films as *The Howling*, *Innerspace* and *The Runaways*.

"The five memorable moments can be shocking in an action picture or hysterically funny in a comedy," he said. "They can be optical effects people have never seen before. But they have to give audiences something to talk about when they leave the theatre."

"People don't come out of a summer film talking art direction, musical score or the sets and costumes. You don't look for five big moments in a picture like *Ordinary People* or other character driven. They have to go out saying, that was really great



A scene from *Lethal Weapon*, featuring Mel Gibson

when... or 'oh, wow, did you see this or that happen?' Then they tell their friends. It brings people into the theatre.

"But it can't be less than five moments. *Howard The Duck* didn't have them and *Ishur* only had about two — the blind camel and Dustin Hoffman bartering in a language he didn't speak. They needed three more."

"I call them 'you gotta-see-it moments'."

"I didn't originate this theory. In comedy it's known as the five big gags it takes to make a summer movie a huge success."

"Pictures like *Jaws*, *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* all were filled with memorable moments and one or two of them stick in the memory years later."

"In *Gremlins 2*, the biggest laugh is a special trick that fools the audience into thinking there is an accident in the theatre's projection room. There are groans of disappointment then an enormous laugh when the audience realizes it's been taken in."

There are four other hilarious moments that almost stop the show, including the appearance of a giant spider, a Dr Jekyll-Mr Hyde spoof and a vocal Gremlin singing "New York, New York."

"People love to be fooled," Picardo said. "This picture pokes fun at the first 'Gremlins' and even of itself. It breaks all the rules. Audiences love to be shocked and surprised and teased by these little creatures."

"The *Gremlins* are almost a metaphor for the worst part of human nature. I describe *Gremlins* as American tourists in the 1950s running roughshod over everything. They do whatever the hell they want."



Managing Director Daniel Angel represents the fifth generation of this famous theatrical family.



The girls in the workroom rush to finish some costumes.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

REGULAR CHECKS NEEDED TO KEEP TRACK OF BLOOD PRESSURE

QUESTION: My husband is taking medication for elevated blood pressure and is doing quite well. But there are days when he doesn't feel up to the mark. With dull headaches and a let-down feeling. He says that tells him his pressure is up again. All my reading tells me that there are no symptoms from high blood pressure. Do you think that his explanation of the cause of his symptoms is correct?

ANSWER: Your comment about your reading is correct; almost all the literature on hypertension stresses that there are no symptoms to warn an individual of its presence. While the presence of a fever may suggest a developing infection, and stomach cramps and diarrhoea definitely point to the presence of a problem in the digestive tract, hypertension provides no such clear signals. That's a dangerous situation, since undetected hypertension goes untreated and leads to some nasty complications, such as heart disease and stroke.

That's why I thoroughly recommend having an accurate blood pressure check on a regular basis; it's the only method to discover the true level of your pressure. If you have regular checkups, and high blood pressure is noted, that means the elevated pressure developed recently. And that means the high blood pressure can be detected, evaluated and treated in a timely fashion.

However, when a patient who has been diagnosed as having hypertension tells me that he has symptoms that he relates to his elevated pressure, I tend to believe that he's in better touch with his own body than I am. Certainly headaches can be provoked by elevated blood

pressure, and that can lead to a feeling that all is not right. It's easy enough to tell whether your husband's judgment is correct by using a blood pressure machine designed for home use to check his pressure regularly, particularly when these feelings occur.

Question: Is it true that the fibre in a diet can protect you from colon cancer? That's what I keep seeing on television, but I can't figure out how this works. Could you please explain?

Answer: Dietary fibre, found only in plants like vegetables, fruits and grains, cannot be digested by humans. Some forms of fibre (particularly the type in wheat bran) can absorb water in the gut, which softens and increases the volume of the stool, thus speeding up the elimination of wastes through the digestive tract.

That, of course, is how high-fibre diets help prevent constipation and other intestinal disorders, but researchers aren't sure how this protects against colon cancer. They believe that by increasing fecal bulk, fibre dilutes carcinogens, or cancer-promoting substances, found in the intestine. And by speeding up elimination, these substances are in the intestine for a shorter length of time.

Studies have shown that the incidence of colon cancer decreases 40 per cent to 50 per cent if the diet includes 30 grammes or more of fibre a day. (The average American consumes 15 grammes of fibre a day.)

But, be careful. Fibre is not a cure-all. Gradually add it to your diet; a sudden increase may cause diarrhoea and flatulence.

Tales of the supernatural in Mexico

By Henry Tricks

LAS LILAS, Mexico. (Renter): There is a place in Mexico's Mapimi Desert where nothing seems to flourish except tales of the supernatural.

Known as the zone of silence, it is rumoured throughout Mexico to be an area where a strange force operates, dooming clocks, radios and even cars to failure.

Located on the same latitude as the notorious Bermuda Triangle, the region abounds with stories of flying saucers, million-year-old trees, falling meteorites and sea shells turned to stone.

While there are scientific explanations for some of those things, farm workers on the handful of cattle ranches scattered around the area still recount bizarre tales of life in one of the driest regions on earth.

"In 1984 there were four of us here when a flying saucer came

over and lit up the whole farm," said Julian Lucero, a 36-year-old ranch hand.

Close to the farm where he and some fellow workers were taking shade from the scorching desert sun, a patch of ground lay littered with chestnut-sized chunks of iron.

Scientists say they are naturally-formed but local people claim they are remnants of meteorites — known as aerolites — that seem to drop routinely onto a patch of desert the size of a football field.

"They fall like a very thin rain and you can see them shining in the light of the moon," said Jose Trinidad Solis, a government worker who guides visitors to the desert.

The desolate zone, which crosses the borders of the three northern Mexican states of Durango, Coahuila and Chihuahua and reaches into the south-

western United States, has little to recommend it beyond its eerie reputation.

Rain has not fallen on the barren stretches of sand and thorn bushes for almost three years, according to the farm workers.

"It's a life that you can grow accustomed to — however odd it seems to outsiders," Lucero said if the place where he has always lived. He said that to him it is one of the most peaceful places on earth.

However, the zone of silence, whose total area has never been defined, is fast becoming a new type of battleground for the conflicting interests of scientists and supernaturalists.

Workers at a laboratory devoted to the study of some of the Mapimi Desert's unique flora and fauna say the superstition surrounding the zone is nothing but a crude attempt to attract

tourists.

"Many people who accept the fantastic ideas go to the place and destroy what the scientists are trying to study," said Dr Alejandro Peschard, director of Durango's General Hospital and a student of the region's ecology.

The government-funded laboratory houses its own natural wonders that Peschard says are more impressive than any tales.

They include a tree — estimated to be millions of years old — which has been fossilised into stone, incubated eggs of an almost-extinct desert turtle and fossilised sea shells left over from an era when oceans covered this part of earth.

He said that studies had found that the so-called zone had characteristics found in the entire Mapimi Desert. The level of magnetism in the region, he said, has been found to be nor-

mal.

However, the doctor has one suspicion about the area that is more sinister than many.

When a US rocket crashed into the zone of silence in July 1970, he says, investigators sealed off the site for months, apparently because the rocket carried secret radioactive or nuclear material.

When asked, the US Embassy in Mexico City had no immediate comment on the crash.

Peschard and local people say US officials laid a railway line to remove the remains of the rocket and much of the earth where it had fallen.

The place has not been the same since, Peschard said.

"The crash of that rocket under mysterious circumstances," he says, "was where the fantasies of the zone of silence started."

Team Games

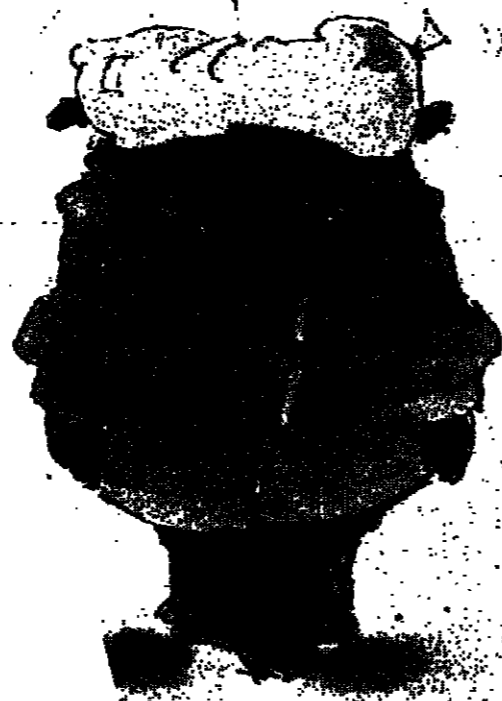
Passing the Bun Money

Two teams line up opposite each other with arms outstretched and palms facing downwards. They elect a leader from each person in charge places a coin on the hand of the first player in each row. When the whistle blows, the leader puts the coin from one hand to the other, and then onto the hand of the player next to them, and so on down the line. Both

lines do this until the coin has reached the end of the line and sent on its way again. The first team to get their coin to the end of the line wins.

Blowing the Balloon

Each player makes a circle. The person in charge shows a balloon into the middle of the circle. See how long you can keep it up by blowing. No hands or faces allowed!



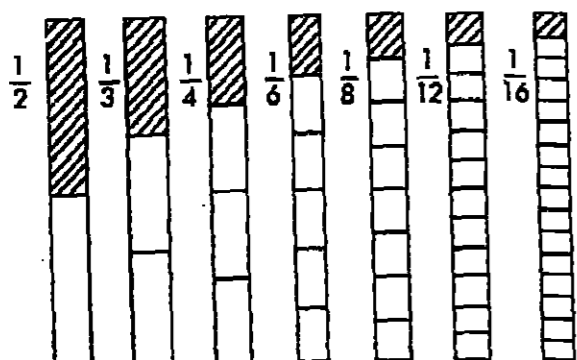
Of some value

B R E T A N G A D O O L B L R
E U S S I S S O A G N H I E A
G S I S B W O M D A K E T N D
A S U N Y R A U N L T S T I E
T O I O B N U L O A I N L A K
C H L B P F E F N S P H U S E
D G K G L S N G F I U N C L E
E H E E R I O S O A G N R R B
P R S N K C N I A R T S E X I
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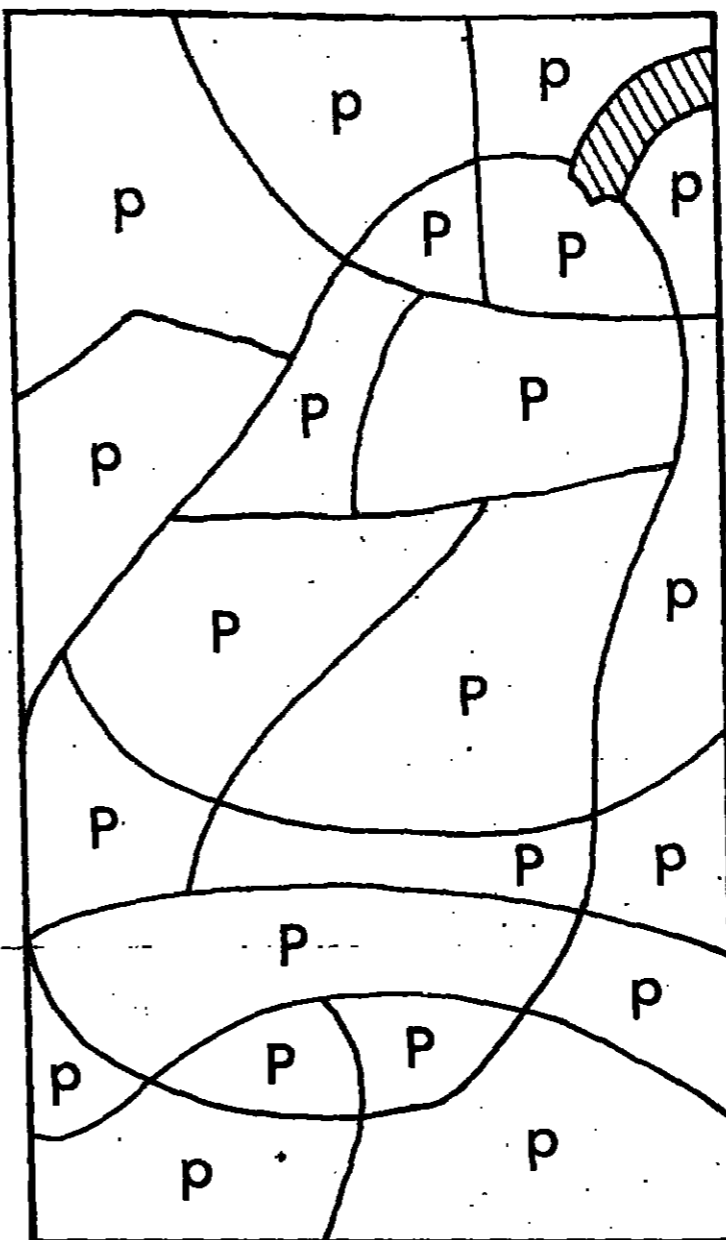
Use the symbols

Use the symbols for greater than (>), less than (<), and equal to (=). Write the correct symbol in the circle between the fractions.

- A. $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{4}$
- B. $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
- C. $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{4}$
- D. $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{6}$ $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{6}$



Color the p spaces light blue. Color the spaces with the capital P's yellow. What do you see that begins with p?



Write the missing letter.

ear

Subtraction

$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ -2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ -0 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ -3 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ -4 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ -5 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ -6 \\ \hline \end{array}$
$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ -2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ -0 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ -1 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ -3 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ -2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ -5 \\ \hline \end{array}$
$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ -2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ -1 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ -6 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ -2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ -4 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ -0 \\ \hline \end{array}$

Did you know

The first thing that Sir Charles Napier did after his troops won the battle of Hyderabad in 1843 was to send a note to his headquarters to tell them the good news. The note was a very clever play on words; it just said 'pecavi'. In Latin this means 'I have sinned,' and Hyderabad is in the state of Sind.

The model who wore the first bikini is reputed to have received 50,000 fan letters. This new type of bathing costume was called the 'bikini' by its inventor, Louis Reard, four days after the first American atomic test at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific. Both caused quite a sensation!

It was the Chinese language that first brought the words 'silk', 'tea' and 'tycoon' into the English language.

Amazing facts

In 1898, fourteen years before the sinking of the SS Titanic, the novelist Morgan Robertson wrote a book that predicted the disaster with frightening accuracy. The liner he created in his story was the same size as the Titanic, held the same number of passengers and, like the Titanic, failed to provide enough safety equipment for them all. In Robertson's story the ship hits an iceberg in the North Atlantic and sinks in much the same area as that in which the Titanic was to go down in 1912. Perhaps the greatest coincidence is that the name of the imaginary ship in Morgan Robertson's book was the Titan.

Queen Elizabeth I formed a position of office called 'The Official Uncorker of Sea-Bottles' after a bottle containing an official secret was washed up in Cornwall.

A hunter on the island of Novaya Sibir, in Siberia, first started a fire in 1951 that is still burning today. This is because the island has a lot of coal deposits on the surface.

In his last will and testament the famous writer and comic satirist Rabelais wrote: 'I have nothing. I owe much. The rest I leave to the poor.'

The American filmstar Clark Gable was born on the first of February in 1907. He was not a popular man with the underwear industry, though he was with thousands of film-goers, because he appeared in a film in 1934 without a vest under his shirt. Before then nearly all men wore vests, and because of him they began to go without. The vest industry suffered a great deal.

James Gibb invented the game of Table Tennis in 1926; its first name was 'Gossamer'.

The first Poet Laureate of England was a Frenchman called Henri d'Avranches.

ALL AKIN

"Generations pass, while some trees stand, and old families last not three eels."

Thomas Brown: *Urn Buryal*, V, 1658

AGNATE	CREW	INLAW	NIECE	STRAIN
AUNT	DAD	ISSUE	PARENT	TEAMS
BEGAT	DEPENDENT	KINFOLK	PROGENY	TRIBE
BLOOD	FATHER	KITH	RACE	UNCLE
BROOD	FLESH	LINE	SIBLING	
CHILD	GENEALOGY	MOM	SISTER	
CLAN	GROUP	MOTHER	SON	
COGNATE	HER	NAME	SPOUSE	
COUSIN	ILK	NEPHEW	STOCK	

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait

To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date



A very hungry fox saw some bunches of grapes hanging from an arbor. He tried and tried to reach them, but couldn't. Going away, he said to himself, "Oh, they were sour, anyway."

Moral: People who can't get something they were after decide that they don't really want it.

The Fox & the Grapes

If we go back far enough, athletics probably began with religion. Primitive men worshipped their gods by performing certain dances. These dances imitated the actions of fighting and hunting. Later on, these dances were performed simply for the

pleasure they gave — and they were actually a form of athletics.

The Egyptians had some form of athletic sports about four thousand years ago. But athletics as we know it really began with the Greeks. The first recorded Olympic Games of the Greeks took place in the year 776 B.C.

Today, we imagine that sports activities play an important part in our lives. But it cannot compare to how important athletics were in the ancient Greeks. Every boy was

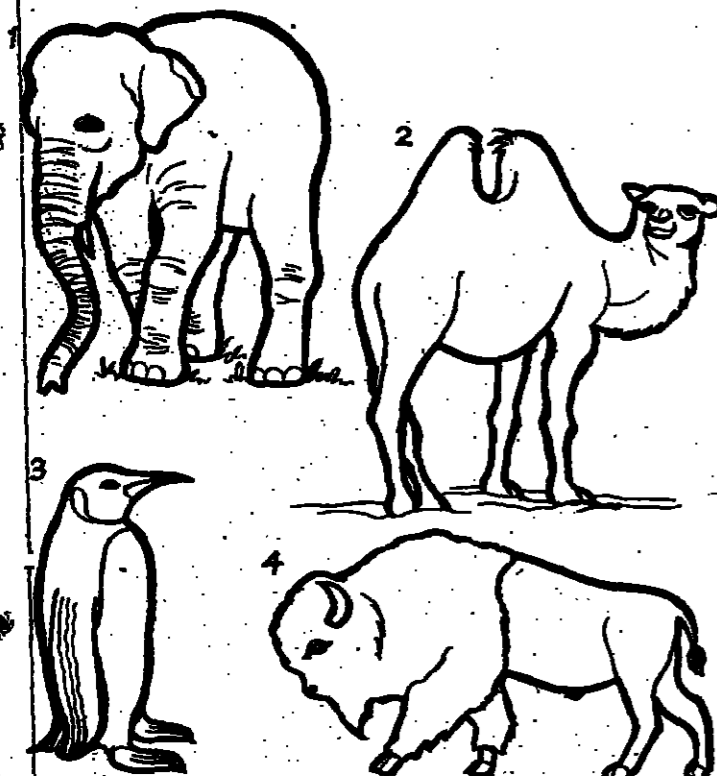
trained in running, jumping, and wrestling, while he was still at school. A man was supposed to be good at athletics until he was well past middle age.

The ideal of the Greeks was to have a sound mind in a healthy body. So they didn't admire men who were just athletes, nor men who were just brilliant but couldn't participate in sports. But they also had professional athletes, especially in boxing.

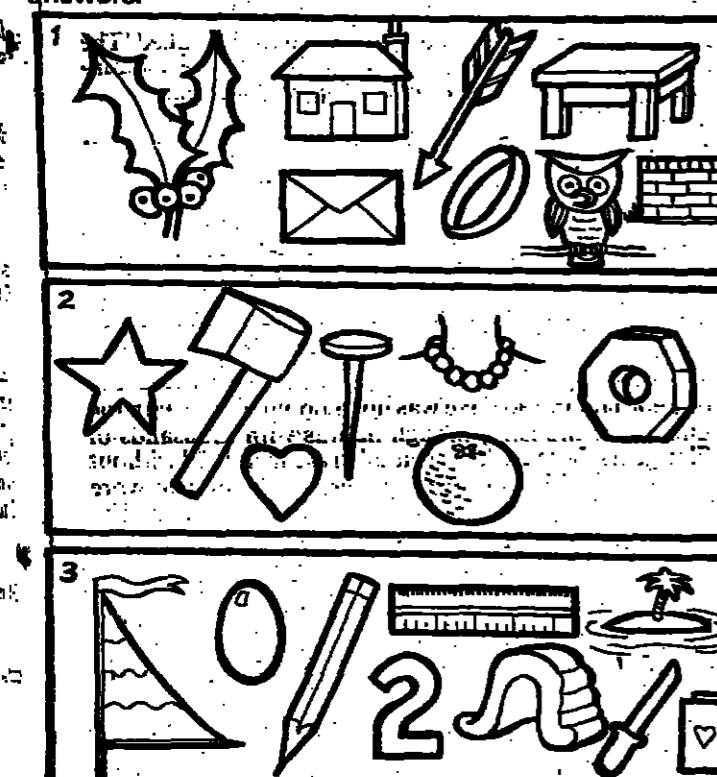
The Greeks had many athletic festivals, but the oldest and most important were the Olympic Games. Only young men of pure Greek descent who had undergone ten months' training could compete. At first the Games were just contests in running and jumping. But later on they added wrestling, boxing, discus and javelin throwing, and chariot races.

Model

Name the country that each of these animals are from.



Name these three airports of Britain and Ireland using the picture clues. Rearrange the initial letters to get the answers.



One of the first comments on chewing gum warned that it would dry up your saliva and stick your stomach together.

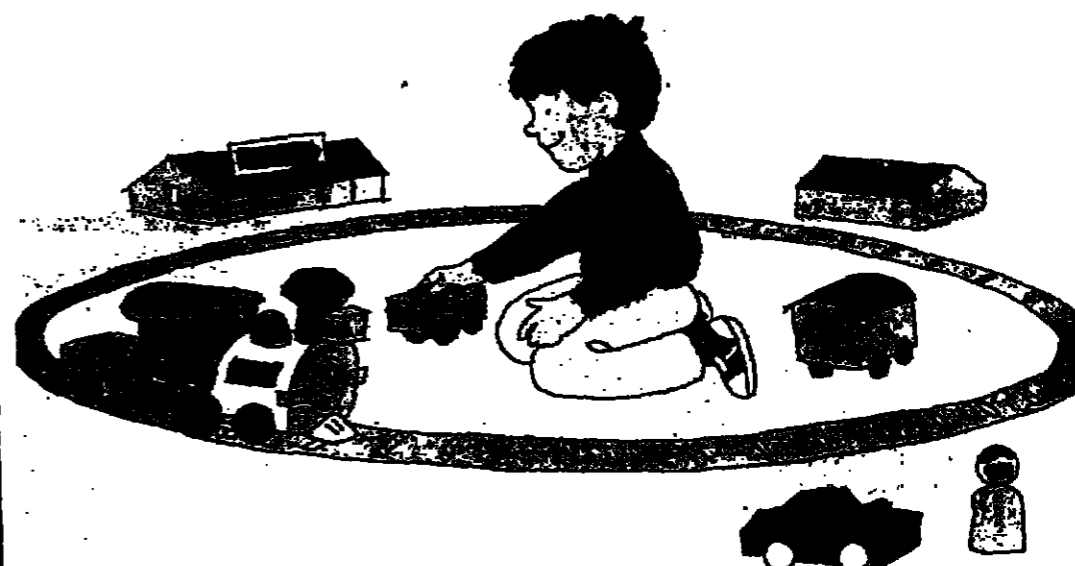
The last words of Lawrence Gates, the explorer who went to the South Pole with Captain Scott and who was injured on the return journey, are immortal. He felt that his injury was slowing down the whole party and thus endangering their lives, so he bravely walked out in to the bitter Antarctic weather to die, saying, 'I am just going outside and may be some time'.

The Romans were the first people to invent the arch—even the great Greek architects had not managed it.

The uniforms which are worn by the famous Swiss Guards who guard the Vatican, the Pope's residence, were designed by the great painter Michelangelo in the 1500s. They were first worn 450 years ago and have stayed unchanged since then; except that tear gas grenades were added in 1975.

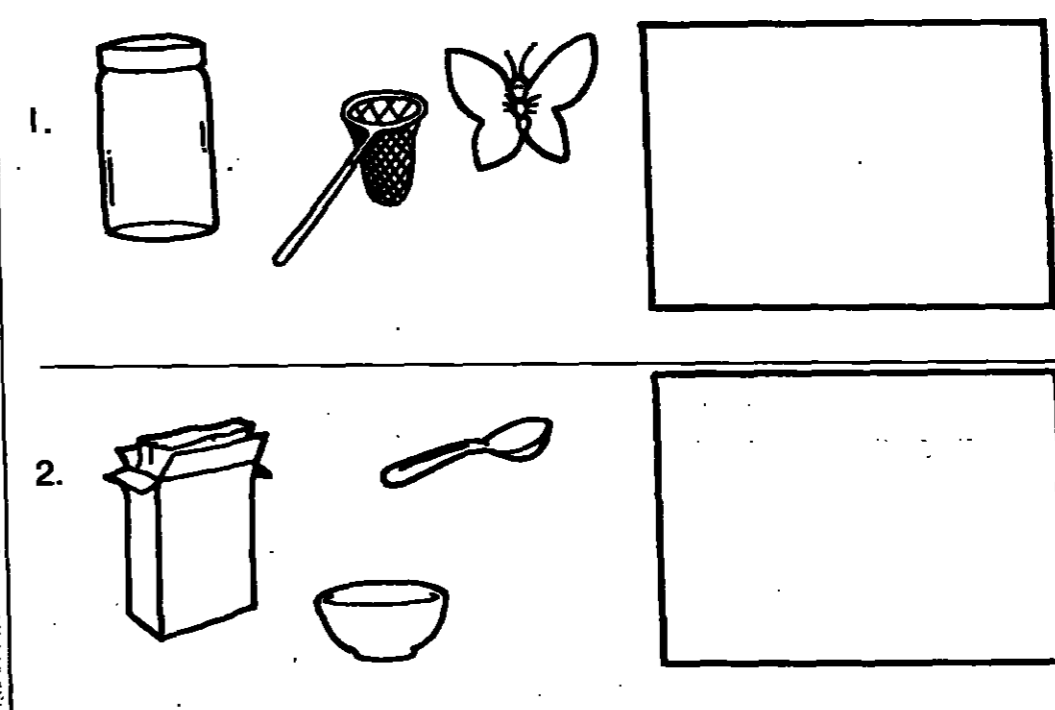


You feel lonely when you want to be with someone, but no one's around. Your friend can't come over, your parents are busy, and even the dog doesn't want to play.



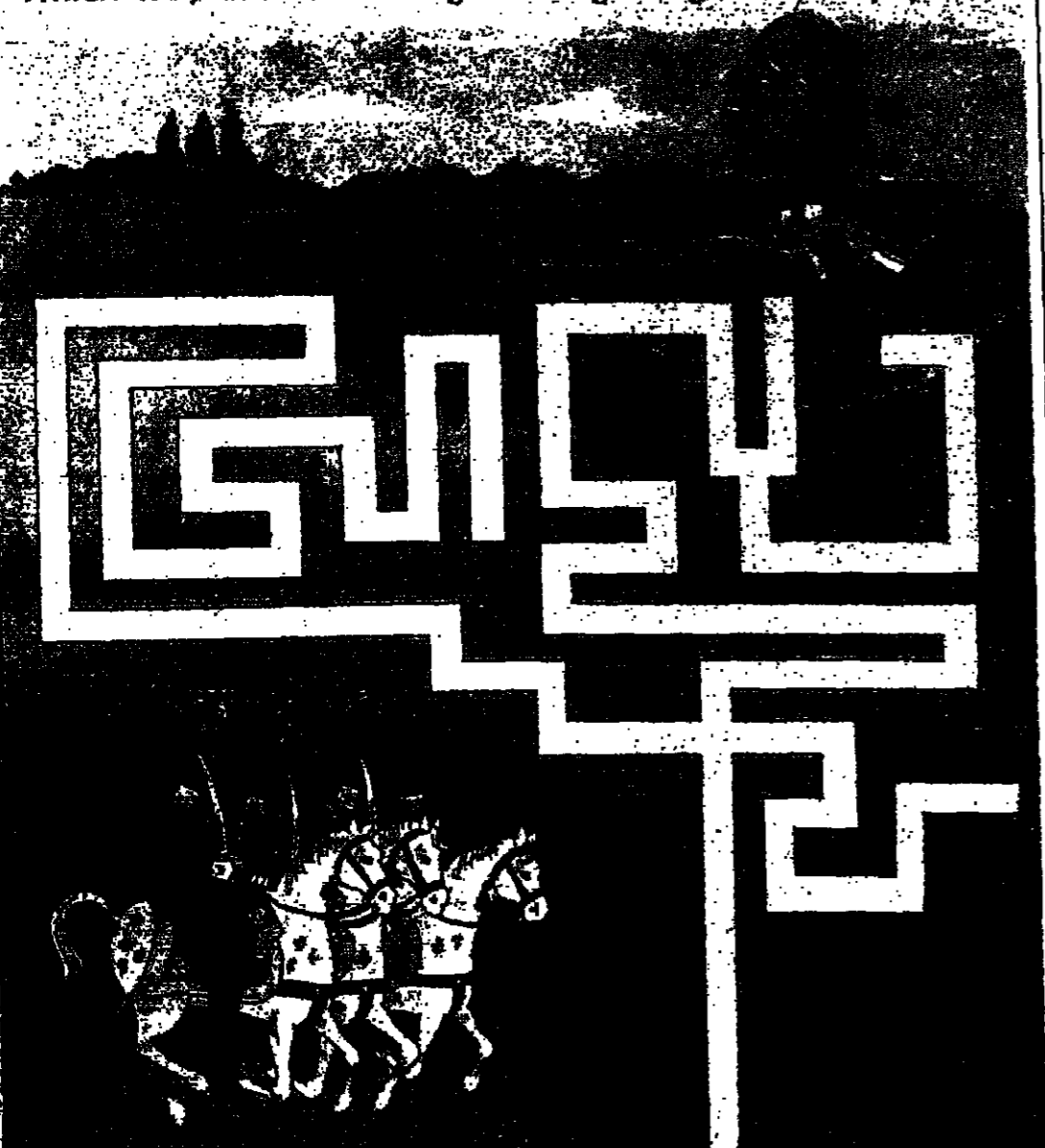
Find someone else to play with, or do something by yourself that you enjoy, like reading a book or playing with your favourite toys.

Look at the **three** objects in each row. Decide what can be done with them. Draw your answer in the empty box. Then write a sentence that tells about your picture.



Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses
And all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

Which way should the king's men go to get to Humpty?



**What do ghosts like to ride on at the fair-ground ?
The Roller Ghoaster.**

**What do ghosts like to ride on at the fair-ground ?
The Roller Ghoaster.**

Where do ghosts live?
In a far distant terror-tory.

What is the ghosts' favourite stretch of water? Lake Erie.

Was Dracula ever married?
No, he was a bat-chelor.

What is the ghosts' favourite pub?
The Horse and Gloom.

**How does a ghost count?
One Boo Three Four Five
Six Seven Hate Nine
Frighten!**

**What did the Hungarian ghost have for lunch?
Ghoulash.**

Why did the ghost go to the astrologer?
'Cos he wanted to see his horrorscope.

Why are ghosts cowards?
'Cos they've got no guts.

What does the Indian ghost live in?
A creepy teepee.

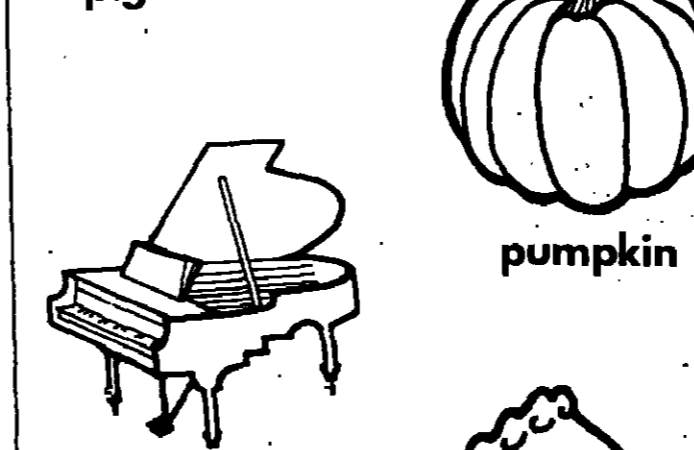
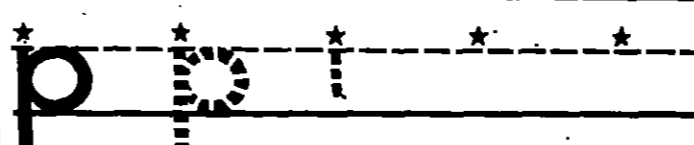
What is the fastest vegetable in the world?
A runner bean.

**Who brings the Monster
their babies?
Frankenstork.**

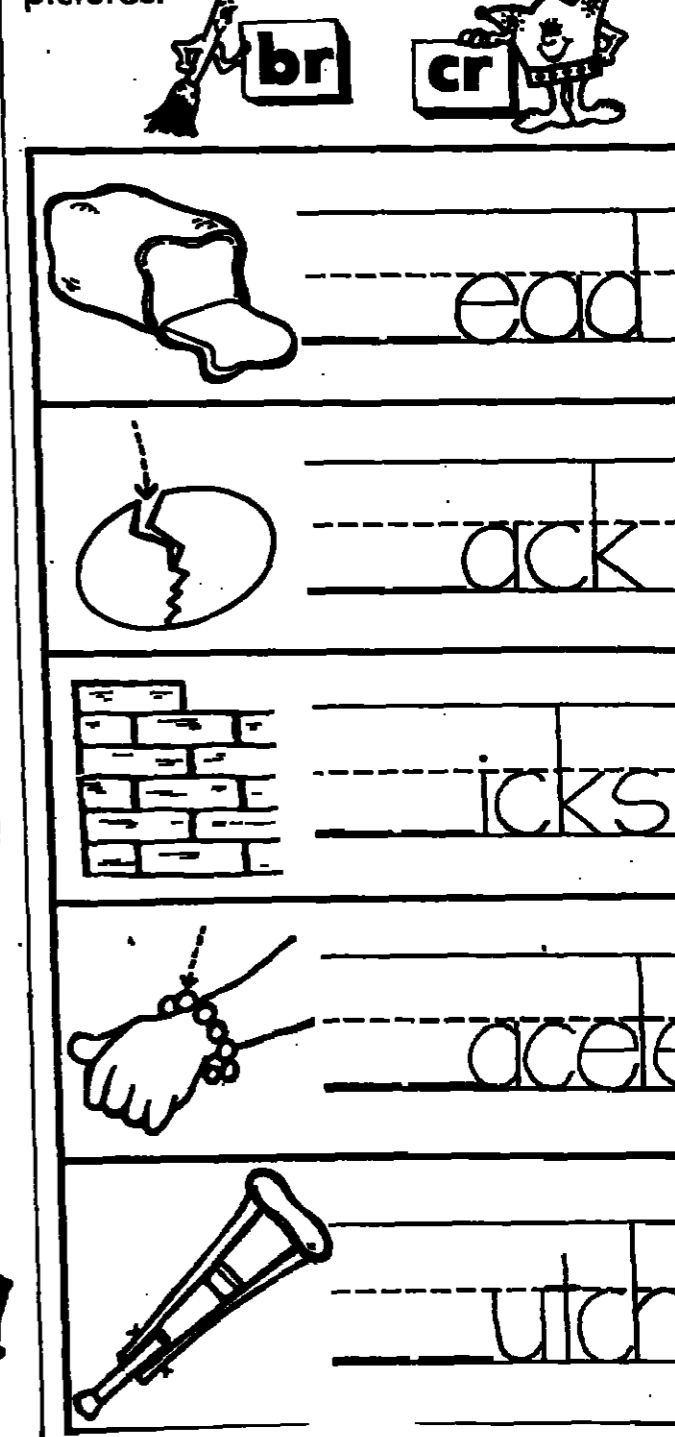
How do ghosts get through locked doors?
They use skeleton keys.

This is a p.

Here are some pictures of words that begin with **p**. Point to each picture. Say the words. Color the pictures. Trace the letter **p** with a pencil. Practice making the letter.



Print the two-letter blend you hear at the beginning of the words. Color the pictures.



Al Khadra: a man on the move

JORDANIAN Hazem Al Khadra is a man who likes to be on the move, be it teaching, writing or swimming—but he likes to play it safe.

Al Khadra, who was the Italian news agency Ansa's correspondent, felt he didn't want to be famous "in death" when he was asked to cover the Gulf war. He quit journalism, which was a part-time occupation for the teacher-turned-marketing executive.

"I didn't want to be famous dead," he said.

Al Khadra is dedicated to his chosen profession, teaching. "Education is sacred: (it is needed) to build the Arab nation," said Al Khadra, who has been in the field since 1976 when he joined the Ministry of Education. But the itch to move on made him switch to advertising.

After four years as a teacher of English, he was drawn to the glamour of advertising and joined a reputed agency in

Kuwait. But soon he discovered that his heart was in learning.

"My goal is to do something in the field of education; and I couldn't do that by remaining in advertising," he said. So, once again, he shifted to private education.

As the director of Polyglot Institute, a language centre and computer training institute, he seems to have found the way to achieve his goal.

"I admire anyone who is willing to learn; I'll go out of my way to help a student achieve his goal," he said.

His job keeps him on his toes, shuffling from class to class as he teaches English to several students each day. And he enjoys every moment of the job, particularly when he does the role of the educational consultant.

"Students seeking higher education abroad can't go out and search for universities, I bring the information to them," he said.

As an educational consultant

at Polyglot, he has information on his fingertips about higher education abroad. About 90 per cent of high school graduates in Kuwait seek placement at a college in Europe or Asia, he says. He encourages those who seek his guidance to study in Australia.

"Australia offers relatively inexpensive educational facilities," he explains. "Why pay more?" he asks. And in keeping with his line of work, he manages to stay away from "commercialising education."

"Education is not a business," he insists.

Learning gives meaning to one's life, he says. And like living, education becomes a part of life that no one can ever rob you of. Dedicated to the profession, he dreams of making education "available to everyone."

In recent times, he has turned his attention to computers. "I don't know why people fear com-

puters," he says as he goes on to extol the values of computers.

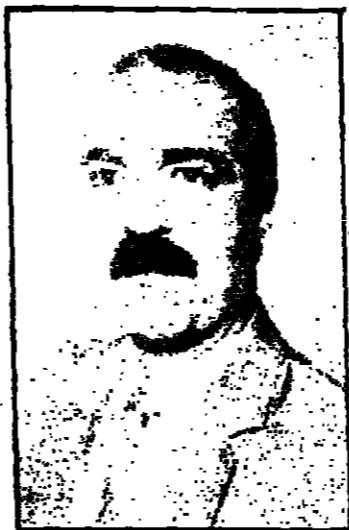
He wants more and more women to study computers. And at the risk of hurting the sensibilities of some women, he says: "Instead of spending their mornings at coffee parties and gossiping, they can come here and learn how to operate computers."

Al Khadra believes that it is a tool that comes in handy from keeping grocery stock lists to making budgets, in addition to being an invaluable educational tool.

His goal, however, is to build a "huge non-profit making educational base" in Kuwait. True, he says, the public school system is excellent, but there is scope for expansion.

"The ratio of schools to students is not sufficient; more private learning centres are needed," he says.

He is also toying with the idea of starting Italian language classes and introduce more language



Hazem Al Khadra

courses with some help from his contacts. At the moment, armed with a package of dreams, he cruises through life. And when the going gets rough, he takes time off for swimming or fishing "to be with himself" as he puts it. Now that he is back in the educational field, he feels that he is on the way to make his next move... FA

Oh! Canada

A PAKISTANI-Canadian, based in Chicago, was recently in Kuwait to sell Canada as a migrant destination. Syed Iqbal Ghazi, who plans to open an office in Bahrain or Sharjah is one of the many immigration consultants who have been visiting Kuwait in recent months.

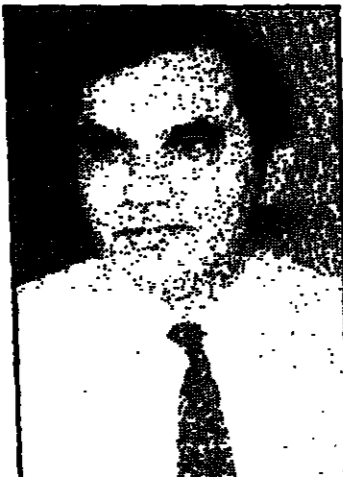
Canada, to him, is what America once was to earlier settlers: a land of opportunity, and he does not tire selling the idea of settling in Canada.

The Gulf, it seems, has become a favourite destination for immigration consultants, who offer "expert advice" on how to migrate to Canada.

"Expatriates in the Gulf have gone through the experience of re-settling in another country; they know the ups and downs of going to live in a place that is not their own. That's why, Gulf residents are preferred," he claims.

Settling in a new land could be a cultural shock. And most residents in the Gulf "have gone through that experience that are better equipped to migrate to Canada," he explains.

Ghazi specialises in the migration of professionals. He claims "wealth is not a pre-requisite to seeking immigration" and skilled, trained workers are needed but admits there is no



S.I. Ghazi

surefire way to get immigration. "We never use the word guarantee," he said. They sell "knowledge" of rules they have gained through experience in assisting migrants. "We ensure that the forms are properly completed and help in selecting healthy pockets for settlements," he added.

(Canada recognises immigration consultants, but it is advisable to check with them whether they are authorised or not before putting your faith, and a healthy packet of money, into their hands. Canadian immigration officials have gone on record as saying that the best way to apply is through the embassy or consulate.) (FA)

In memory of Tagore, Nazrul



Some singers (L-R): Milton, Hannan, Subir, Nuru, Kamal, Mali, Mili, Rezina, Shikha.

SHATADAL, a local group, recently celebrated the birth anniversary of well-known poet Rabindranath Tagore and rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at the Messilah Beach Hotel.

Dr Rashidul Haider made a speech based on Nazrul's poems. M. Jamal Haider spoke on Tagore's contribution to Bengali literature and talked about Nazrul Islam's struggle against British rule. Other speakers included Khondker Abdul Hannan.

Songs by Tagore and Nazrul were presented by Shikha Chowdhury, Rezina Karim, Shyamali Haider Mali, Kazzali Haider Miti, Subir Ghosh, Sheikh Nurul Islam, Rabiul Islam Milton, Abdul Hannan Khan and



Shyamali Haider Mali on stage.

Kamaluddin. They were supported by Aji Dey (table) and Iman and Latif (guitar). Fakhru Islam Farukh and M. Jamal Haider conducted the programme.



Changes ...

In a reception held last week at Al Jahra Ballroom, the Meridien welcomed Chent Hosny, its new resident manager, and bid farewell to Nadia Ayad, director of sales and marketing and welcomed her replacement Hassan Ezz.

Hosny has been working with Meridien hotels for eight years. He was sales and marketing manager at Meridien Jeddah and deputy general manager at Meridien Cairo. Ezz has worked in a number of first class hotels in Cairo and the Gulf.

Guests were received by Keaton Woods, the Meridien's general manager, Alan Briere, vice-president for sales and marketing in the Middle East, Max Metzger from the regional office, Mazen Mirie, public relations manager and Rabe Al Sukhon, public relations co-ordinator. Pictures (clockwise) show views from the reception.



● The former director of Kuwait's Commerce Ministry, Hassan Mohammad Rajeh, hosted a luncheon party on Saturday at Al Dana Restaurant in honour of Chinese Ambassador Guan Zi Hui and Mrs Hui, who are going on vacation to China. A number

of ambassadors and officials attended the reception, including Ibrahim Al Mohanna, counsellor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Above some of the guests: (right) Hassan Rajeh with the Chinese ambassador.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Nabia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
- 9.40 Ifrah Ya Simsim
- 10.10 Good Morning
- 10.30 Ahlam Al Zahira: Arabic serial; part 10, featuring Majdi Wahba, Karima Mukhtar, Madhi Hamdi, Ibrahim Al Shami
- 11.15 News Summary
- 12.00 Al Raseef Al Barad: Arabic serial; part 10, featuring Mahmood Saeed, Shafiqah Al Tall, Fuad Al Shomili
- 1.20 Songs
- 1.30 Sanavar: cartoon serial
- 2.00 News in Arabic
- 2.15 Ailah Bu Jassoum: Kuwaiti serial; ep. 10, featuring Hussain Qattan, Abdul Wahab Dosari, Moosa Al Hazim
- 2.50 Hadith Imaan: religious programme
- 3.35 Masrah Al Muwahib: variety show
- 4.15 Huwar Wa Nagham: presented by Hanan Al Sa'ati
- 5.30 Sally: cartoon serial
- 6.00 Cartoons
- 7.30 Songs
- 8.00 Al Anes Wal Jalees: focuses on the Arab writers and their work
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Uyyoun Al Akhreen: Arabic serial; featuring Bost, Abu Bakr Ezzat, Hamdi Ahmad, Ahmad Abdul Aziz
- 11.00 Fael Khair: Arabic film. Starring: Mahdi Fawzi, Sabah, Ismael Yassin, Firdous Mohammad
- 12.15 News Summary
- 12.20 World News via Satellite
- 12.35 Holy Quran/Closedown



Kate and Allie, KTV2

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Big Dog, Little Dog: new cartoon series for children
- 6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: a variety show for young viewers from Disney
- 7.00 Quran and Science: "The Creation of Darkness"
- 7.30 Kate and Allie: "Allie Doesn't Live Here Anymore". Allie moves into husband Bob's apartment but things don't turn out as planned. Comedy.

- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 You and the Law: prepared by the Ministry of the Interior; presented by Ali Noor. Focus on local laws
- 8.50 Bordertown: "The Man They Couldn't Hang". The sheriff asks a lady doctor to assist in hanging a criminal in the untamed Canadian border town in the 1880s
- 9.15 Horizon: "The Last Resort". A look at ageing and the increasing number of older people. Documentary
- 10.00 Open All Hours: this British comedy returns to Kuwait television this season
- 10.30 The Saint: "Wrong Numbers". Simon Templar stumbles on information about a group smuggling advanced rockets out of the country
- 11.30 News in Brief
- 11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Sports Channel Channel 6/45

- 4.00 UAE World Cup Report
- 5.00 Sports Analysis and other related reviews
- 6.00 World Cup: UAE vs Yugoslavia (Live)
- 8.10 World Cup: Colombia vs W. Germany (recording)
- 10.00 Czechoslovakia vs Italy (Live)
- 12.10 World Cup: US vs Austria (recording)
- 02.10 Closedown

Please note that Kuwait television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.13am
Zuhr	11.49
Asr	3.23pm
Maghreb	6.50
Isha	8.22

■ All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Al Raqqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Gabli
Al Salmiya
Hanafi Al Abahu (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi
Al Hamra
Sinterwood
Drive-In
Al Raqqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)
Al Firdous
Izzatdaar (Hindi)

Starring: Madhuri Dixit
Fahadul Open-Air
Rastey Pyar Ke (Hindi)
Al Fahaleh
Mag Wheels
Al Jahra
Kala Khoon (Bengali)
Granada
Jagarta (Bengali)
Sulabikhat
Alice
Al Jleeb
Nair Saheb (Malayalam)
Starring: Mammootty
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film

Pakistan Arts Circle membership campaign

June 30: The initial membership campaign of the Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) will end on June 30 to prepare for elections of a new executive committee. All Pakistanis are invited to join the PAC by completing the membership form. PAC membership is open to any Pakistani wishing to join the group at any time. For details call: 5716388; 5631815; 4843578; 2414570.

Festival on Ice

June 19-24: Ice Capades present Festival on Ice at the Ice Skating Rink. Two shows daily. Afternoon show features Barbie Doll. The evening show features figure skating champions and exhibition shows. Twenty world class skaters promise family entertainment. For reservations Tel. 5230000/2533000

Pakistanis Welfare Society

June 19: 5.30 pm. The monthly meeting of Pakistanis Welfare Society will be held at the residence of Liaquat Ali. Members are requested to come on time.

Kapilku

July 5: Kapilku awards certificates of attendance to those who attended tailoring, bookkeeping, basic accounts and basic computers courses. The ceremony will be held at Al Araliya Restaurant, 8 pm. Philippine Ambassador Maunay Mohammad Tamano will be the chief guest. Buffet dinner, KD 3 per person. Proceeds will go toward the school fund.

Those who attended self-improvement classes are asked to contact Sarah Macarimbang. Tel: 4839009; 4839889; 4843447.

Weekend Club

July 2: The Weekend Club will hold "Red and Black Nite" at Regency Palace Hotel. Highlights include selection of the "Red and Black Lady." The "Man of the Year" award will be announced. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones bands in attendance. For details contact Jolito Cardozo — Tel: 4315425; Hilary 5741380; Mercedes, 4890566.

Overseas students party

June 27: 6 pm. British Council will hold a reception for all students who will be studying in the UK this autumn. The party will be for all students who have been offered a place at any university, polytechnic or college in Britain.

A set of briefing notes will be given to each student. Refreshments will be served. Students going to the UK are asked to call in to collect free admission cards from Kate or Lix in the Education Office, British Council, 2 Al Arabi St., Mansouriya.

D'Astasia Association celebrates 10th anniversary

Oct 4: Holy mass at 6.30 pm at the Holy Family Cathedral, Kuwait City, followed by a social at 8.30 pm at the Messilah Beach Hotel. For more details please contact Tel. No. 2469811/12 or 3717346 after 5.30 pm.

Classical Dance Show

June 22: Sudarshan Kala Mandir will present a classical dance show at IAC, Fumaites. For entry passes call 5657288 or 4315271.

At the Messilah Beach

Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine. Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band. Al Bordowneh: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At the Plaza:

Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu. Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks. Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.

Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests.

Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the Sheraton

Riccardo: Asparagus promotion, until May 26; plus Italian cuisine; dine to the sounds of Franco and Regina.

At the SAS

Bistretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner. Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.

Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

Best Festival

July 12: Coming up next month is the Best Festival featuring such bands as Neighbuzz, Hurricane, Symphony. The show will be performed at the Anak Restaurant, opposite G.P.O. More details later.

At Ramada Al Salam

Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.

Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight. Al Gandouli Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.

Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm. Ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Meridien

La Brasserie Restaurant: Wednesday: Indonesian Corner, cuisine prepared in front of you.

Thursday: Jazz Night — jazz music, seafood specialties.

Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.

Versailles: Business lunch and dinner featuring fondue, grilled food.

Cinema

British Council

June 25: 6 pm. Video presentation on primary and secondary school education in England and Wales; this will be followed by a question and answer session. Please reserve seats by asking for Mrs Harries or Mrs Lockey.

June 27, 6 pm; June 28, 10 am: Children's film — Care Bears.

Making Friends: 66 minutes. Please book seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Clijsters, Scifo and Ceulemans score

10-man Belgium tame Uruguay

VERONA, June 18, (Reuters): Buccaneering captain Jan Ceulemans plundered a golden goal with his team reduced to 10 men to lead Belgium into the second round of the World Cup with a 3-1 victory over Uruguay yesterday.

Belgium, who beat South Korea 2-0 in their Group E opener last Tuesday, roared into the last 16 and left the hapless Uruguayans still waiting for their first win in 20 years in the World Cup finals.

Belgium, 2-0 up but reduced to 10 when defender Eric Gerets

was sent off three minutes before the interval, made the task of the South Americans too steep barely two minutes into the second half when Ceulemans struck.

The doughty 33-year-old veteran crowned a typical charge through the defence with unanswered panache, taking possession in his stride on the edge of the box, careering on and thundering his shot into the net.

Uruguay pressed forward in constant waves after the third Belgium goal and managed to pull one back after squandering a

hatful of chances.

Second-half substitute Pablo Bengoechea netted in the 72nd minute, meeting a cross from the left from Hugo de Leon with a sweetly-taken right-foot volley.

Leo Clijsters and Enzo Scifo had struck twice for the Belgians in the first 22 minutes but the removal of Gerets put them in jeopardy.

Clijsters concluded a move of deadly swiftness, initiated by the evergreen Ceulemans.

Ceulemans, reinstated to the opening line-up, exchanged passes with the lively Bruno Versavel

and fed Michel de Wolf who made for the left corner-flag.

De Wolf clipped over a pinpoint cross for Clijsters, who surged in from the right to head firmly into the far corner of the net.

Seven minutes later Scifo made it 2-0 as the Belgian Red Devils once again caught the Uruguayans on a speedy break.

Franky van Der Elst prodded a square pass from the left and Scifo met it with a tremendous right-foot shot from 30 metres out, which thundered into the corner of the net as goalkeeper Fernando Alvez dived in vain to his right.

Uruguay, held to a 0-0 draw by Spain in Udine last Wednesday, last won a World Cup final tournament match when they beat the Soviet Union 1-0 in the 1970 quarterfinals, and they never looked like ending that sorry sequence after Belgium had scored twice.

"I think we played very well. We deserved to win," Belgian coach Guy Thys said, full of pride for the performance of his team in holding on with just 10 men.

"I admire my players' courage," he said, adding that he had been forced to substitute goal-scorer Clijsters at the interval because of a muscle strain.

The dismissal of the bearded Gerets after two yellow cards in six minutes coincided with a period of sustained attack by Uruguay, with their captain Enzo Francescoli ever dangerous.

In this spell, defender Nelson Gutierrez came desperately close

with a header just over the bar from a 39th-minute free-kick on the left by Ruben Sosa.

Right back Gerets received his first caution for a clattering tackle on Ruben Paz, who was making a raid down the left flank.

East German referee Siegfried Kirschen gave him his marching orders in the 42nd minute for a robust challenge on Ruben Sosa.

Gerets went off shaking his head and gesturing that Sosa had taken a dive. Belgium's army of chanting, flag-waving fans whistled their disapproval of the referee's harsh verdict.

Uruguay applied renewed pressure after the hammer blow of the third goal by Ceulemans, but in their anxiety to reduce the arrears their finishing was hasty and inaccurate.

Defender Jose Herrera shot wide in the 57th minute and a minute later Paz passed up a glorious chance, goalkeeper Michel Preud'Homme clearing with his feet.

Carlos Aguilera, who had tested Preud'Homme soon after his entry as substitute, after the interval, shot wide in the 66th minute and Francescoli was equally ineffective with a free-kick from the left edge of the penalty area two minutes later.

Bengoechea raised Uruguayan hopes of a last-gasp recovery with his 72nd-minute goal, 15 minutes after his entry on the pitch in place of Santiago Ostolaza.

But a long-range effort from Jose Perdomo was well taken high by Preud'Homme five minutes later as the scale of the task became very more clearly beyond the Uruguayans.



Belgium goalkeeper Michel Preud'Homme jumps in jubilation after his team's first goal. (Reuters wirephoto)



Clijsters (right) is congratulated by one of his team-mates after he scored the goal. (Reuters wirephoto)



Ceulemans (left) and Hugo de Leon of Uruguay fight for the ball. Right: Ceulemans celebrates after scoring. (Reuters wirephoto)



Enzo Francescoli (left) of Uruguay and Belgium's Stephane Demol fight to control the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Brazilians set to take on Scots

TURIN, June 18, (Reuters): Brazil face Scotland in the World Cup on Wednesday under pressure not only to win Group C but also to start living up to their status as one of the tournament favourites.

The three times world champions have stuttered to narrow victories over Sweden and Costa Rica and need only one point to secure the group and remain in Turin for the first knock-out match against one of the weaker qualifiers.

Their position looks assured as Scotland, who have never beaten Brazil, are likely to be still suffering from their efforts in beating Sweden 2-1 in a gruelling physical tussle.

But coach Sebastiao Lazaroni, already roasted by the media for his cautious tactics, now faces a player revolt as some of his stars between their exclusion from the side.

"We are never going to get anywhere playing like this," said PSV Eindhoven striker Romario who was not even a substitute for the Costa Rica match.

Bebeto, who played for only the last five minutes, echoed the complaints and the great Pele made his now customary contribution to the debate.

"We will be eliminated by the first strong team we come up against," said Pele, who led Brazil to their last World Cup win 20 years ago.

But Lazaroni appears immune to the attacks and his team against Scotland is unlikely to be changed dramatically though defender Mozer is out after collecting two yellow cards.

"Using my tactics the team has beaten Italy and Argentina, so why change them now?" he said, referring to warm-up matches.

The Scotland game will be difficult as there is simply no such thing as an easy match in the World Cup these days," he told reporters.

Disastrous Scotland, morale fully recovered from their traditionally disastrous opening match, must at least draw to qualify for the latter stages.

"I will make changes for the Brazil match as they are a different team entirely from the Swedes," manager Andy Roxburgh said as he waited anxiously for news of injuries.

"I have never seen our players so exhausted," he said, adding that Maurice Johnston, a striker renowned for his stamina, was "horizontal in the dressing room after Saturday's match."

The hard-running style of the Scots will have to be modified against Brazil who, unlike Sweden, are less likely to fall into the trap of trying to match force with force.

But the Scotland manager, an avid fan and student of Brazilian soccer, would give no clues to his planned changes.

Kick-off: Wednesday, 10.00 pm (Kuwait time)

PALERMO, June 18, (Reuters): Yesterday's goalless draw between Ireland and Egypt left everything resting on Thursday's final matches for the four teams in Group F.

England play Egypt in Cagliari while Ireland play the Dutch here with all four locked on two points from two games and with the same goal difference.

If the teams end up on three points and cannot be separated on the number of goals scored the group will be settled by drawing lots, soccer's answer to Russian roulette.

Ireland coach Jack Charlton was clearly disappointed his team did not turn territorial advantage into goals in yesterday's game and berated the Egyptian tactics.

"I didn't like the game, I didn't like the way the Egyptians played, I didn't like the time wasting," he said.

"If you come to a World Cup you should at least try and play a bit of football," he added.

Egypt strung five men across midfield, leading striker Hossam Hassan little support up front, and were happy to slow the game down in the second half and settle for a point.

But if Egypt were guilty of a lack of ambition, Ireland were



Six Egyptian players crowd their goalmouth during an Ireland attack. (Reuters wirephoto)

short of guile in attack, relying too heavily on firing long balls for Tony Cascarino to head on.

They looked more threatening when midfielder Kevin Sheedy got the ball on the ground.

Sheedy created the clearest chance of the game for Ray Houghton in the second half but goalkeeper Ahmed Shubair saved superbly.

Egyptian Coach Mahmoud El Gohari, whose team are appearing in the finals for the first time since 1934, was pleased with the result.

"It was a difficult match for us because we're not used to the

British style but the result was fair," he said.

El Gohari admitted his team went out looking for a draw.

"This is a very hard group and our main concern was not to lose," he said.

El Gohari promised a return to the more positive soccer shown by the Egyptians in their opening game against the Dutch for Thursday's decisive match with England.

"I think we will try to make a bigger effort for the next match and produce a better match," he said.

Meanwhile Ireland, seeking to

qualify for the last 16 in their first World Cup, fear a backlash from the Dutch, the 1988 European champions but way below par so far.

"They still have some very good players," Charlton said.

He too anticipated a more attractive game on Thursday.

"The Dutch match will be a good game," he said.

"We might beat the Dutch, they might beat us but they'll come and have a good go at us and we'll have a go at them," he added.

Most Egyptians, experts and ordinary soccer fans, regarded Ireland as the weakest team in Group F and thought the game was Egypt's best chance for qualifying for the next round before meeting strong England on Thursday.

"The plan drawn by El Gohari was wrong and unbalanced. It concentrated on defense and forgot about attack," Mahmoud Sayess, the coach of Egypt's largest and most powerful soccer club, Ahli, said after yesterday's game, summarizing the opinion of most professional critics.

Sayess and other critics cited the "excellent" performance of the Egyptian team against Holland on Tuesday and said yesterday's game was no match.

Spain outclass South Korea

UDINE, June 18, (Reuters): Michel scored the first hat-trick of the World Cup yesterday to help Spain to a 3-1 win over South Korea and move them within sight of a place in the second round.

A hooked volley midway through the first half, an exquisitely placed free kick just after an hour and a jinking run culminating in a left-foot shot

nine minutes from time showed the best of the stylish Michel's skills.

Hwangbo Kwan scored with a fierce kick two minutes before halftime to keep alive briefly South Korea's hopes of staying in contention in Group E.

But a second successive defeat — they lost 2-0 to Belgium in their opening match — means South Korea have little or no

chance of squeezing through to the second round.

Spain, taking their tally to three points from two games, are almost guaranteed a place in the last 16.

But only the three moments of Michel magic lifted a performance that was far from smooth or convincing.

The Spaniards wasted chances and a second successive lacklustre showing by the usually razor-sharp Emilio Butragueno resulted in the Spanish striker and captain being substituted 13 minutes from time.

The Koreans, with four changes from the team that lost to Belgium, made most of the early running as Spain took time to get into gear.

Goalkeeper Choi In-Young, blamed for handing Belgium their first goal five days earlier, played well and kept out most of the Spanish attempts. But there was nothing he could do to prevent any of Michel's goals.

The first, in the 23rd minute, resulted from only Spain's second real attack. The Real Madrid midfielder ghosted round his marker to connect with a cross from the left and volley it beyond Choi and just inside the far post.

Roberto and Michel then wasted chances before Hwangbo levelled the scores just before halftime.

The ball, teed up for him by captain Choi Soon-Ho from a free kick, flew past a 10-man wall and past Spanish goalkeeper Aondon Zubizarreta into the net.

Ten minutes into the second half Rafael Martin Vazquez crossed from the left for Julio Salinas but the tall Spanish



Michel celebrates after getting his third goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

striker headed just over.

In the 62nd minute Michel struck again with devastating effect. He curled a free kick from just outside the area around the Korean wall and tucked the ball perfectly inside the near angle of the goal where Choi had no chance of reaching it.

With the South Koreans now barely able to mount attacks, Martin Vazquez had a 70th minute shot blocked by Choi.

But 11 minutes later Michel scored the third goal which made him joint top scorer in the tournament.

Jinking through the Korean penalty area, he feinted to send Choi the wrong way then hit a left-foot shot into the opposite side of the goal.



Spain's Martin Vazquez (right) gets away from S. Korea's Byung-Joo Byun. (Reuters wirephoto)

'W. Germany are best'

NAPLES, June 18, (Reuters): Diego Maradona said on Sunday West Germany were the best team at the World Cup and favourites to win their third crown.

"West Germany are the firmest candidates for the title," he said.

Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo said Franz Beckenbauer had West Germany playing the football he did not have time to prepare his own team for.

"It's what I wanted to do but I didn't have the players," Bilardo said.

Bilardo's side, a pale shadow of his 1986 World Cup-winning team, have lost 1-0 to Cameroon and beaten the Soviet Union 2-0.

The coach has complained he seldom had a full squad to train because most of his players were with foreign clubs.

A strong defence, rather than an ability to score goals, will decide who wins the World Cup, Colombian coach Francisco Maturana predicted on Sunday.

"It will be the one that lets in the fewest goals, not the one that scores the most," said Maturana after studying all the teams in the first round.

Maturana said Brazilian coach Sebastiao Lazaroni, whose side have conceded one goal in two matches, was adopting the best course.

"Lazaroni uses a libero and four defenders because he has realised that he can win the World Cup that way," said Maturana who also tipped Italy to reach the final.

Magistrate overrules alcohol ban

MILAN, June 18, (Reuters): A Milan magistrate has overruled the Italian government's World Cup anti-hooligan alcohol ban as unconstitutional — but only for one man in his local supermarket.

An alcohol ban has been imposed in all 12 World Cup cities on match days in an attempt to reduce the risk of violence from hooligans. The measure has provoked a storm of protest from bar and restaurant owners.

Magistrate Marinella Grosso accepted an appeal against the ban by a Milan lawyer who objected to finding his local supermarket liquor countered barred on the day of a World Cup match.

She ruled: "The illegitimacy of the government directive is glaring. It breaks constitutional norms because it violates the right to freely barter goods."

Grosso told journalists her preliminary ruling applied only to the lawyer who made the appeal and his local supermarket. But legal experts said other clients were likely to obtain similar orders if they took their case to a magistrate.

Many restaurants and bars in Rome and Milan closed on match days last week in protest against the veto, which they say does nothing to stop hooligans but is driving away their customers.

Lambada road show upsets Turin citizens

TURIN, June 18, (Reuters): Brazil's lambada road show has upset the sober citizens of Turin and been told to cool it — except on World Cup match days.

A giant lorry fitted out with 10,000 watt speakers to blast out samba and lambada rhythms has been banned from the city centre after complaints about the noise.

The truck, which carries a 10-piece band and dancing show, was sent to drum up support for Brazil's bid to win a record fourth World Cup.

But the decibel level proved too much for complaining residents and the city authorities ruled that the mobile show could perform only on Brazilian match days.

However, the 10,000 samba-dancing fans could meet their match during Wednesday's game against Scotland.

Faldo falters on 16th green

Irwin, Donald force playoff

MEDINAH, Illinois, June 18, (Reuters): Hale Irwin came from practically nowhere yesterday to fire five birdies on the back nine and force front-running Mike Donald into a playoff, set for today, in the 90th US Open golf championship.

Irwin, starting the day four shots behind Donald, vaulted past 18 other players to give himself a chance to win a third US Open title to go along with the two he won in the 1970s.

His five-under-par 67, which tied him with Donald at 280, was not only the lowest round of the day on Medinah Country Club's number 3 course, it was the lowest score Irwin has posted in 21 appearances in this championship.

Donald, who started the day tied for the lead and made two birdies to go to nine-under-par, was cruising along in first place until the 16th hole, where he failed to get up and down from a

greenside bunker.

That bogey dropped him even with Irwin and when he could not birdie either of the last two holes they both headed for an 18-hole playoff today. The 45-year-old Irwin, bidding to become the oldest US Open champion, acted like someone half his age when he canned a 40-foot birdie putt on the final hole that put him in contention.

He ran around almost the entire green slapping hands with people in the huge gallery and pumping his fists in the air in exultation.

"There was no way I could contain my excitement," Irwin said.

"In my 22 plus years of professional golf I have never made a putt like that to win or come close to winning," added Irwin, who was playing here only because he was given a special exemption by the US Golf Association.

Irwin, who won the 1974 and 1979 Opens, birdied the 11th through 14th holes with putts of six, four, three and 12 feet to put the pressure on Donald.

He then had to sit in the clubhouse and watch on television while the leader made par after par until he stumbled on the tricky 16th and tumbled into a tie with Irwin.

Donald, whose only victory in 10 years on the US Tour came last year in a playoff, carded a 71 for his 280 total.

Third-round co-leader Billy Ray Brown, playing in his first major championship, matched par-72 and finished tied at 281 with Nick Faldo of Britain, who has his quest for golf's Grand Slam come to an end.

Chance
Brown, whose birdie on the 17th hole moved him to within one shot of the leaders, had a chance to make the playoff with an eight-foot birdie putt on the final hole, but he just missed.

Back-to-back Masters champion Faldo, who lost an 18-hole playoff to Curtis Strange in the 1988 Open, made a strong bid for the title with four birdies that got him to within one stroke of the

lead.

He let it slip away, however, when he three-putted the 16th green. He just missed birdie putts on the final two holes and settled for a 69 and a tie with Brown.

"The 16th was the killer," Faldo said. "I hit a solid putt downhill and it just didn't get there."

Faldo, who won the last two masters in sudden-death playoffs, still had a chance right up until the end.

"I hit a hell of a putt at 18," he said, "I thought it was going in." Strange, going for his third straight US Open title, struggled to a three-over-75 for a 286 total.

Usually the picture of consistency, he had a rollercoaster round that included five bogeys and only two birdies.

The defending champion said he knew his dream of matching Willie Anderson's 85-year-old feat of three straight Open title was "slipping away" as early as the 581-yard 7th hole.

"When you make a bogey on a par-five, you're not going to win the US Open," he said.

Australian Greg Norman, Tim Simpson, who had led the first and second rounds, and young Mark Brooks, who started the day one shot out of the lead, tied at 283, next closest to Faldo and Brown.

Finished
Norman made one of his famous Sunday charges towards the top, going five-under-par in 13 holes. But he bogeyed the 14th and 17th holes and finished with a three-under 69.

"I'm ticked off," the 1986 British Open champion said after again coming close in a major.

Norman said his downfall came when he "muffed" a greenside bunker shot on the par-five 14th hole and made bogey to fall three strokes behind the lead.

Jack Nicklaus, playing in his 34th US Open and seeking a record fifth title, was not up to the task.

Starting the day just four shots from the lead, he went four-over-par on the back nine and finished with a 76 and 289 total.



Irwin reacts after sinking a putt on the 18th green (Reuters wirephoto)

Davis helps Reds cruise past Astros

CINCINNATI, June 18, (AP): Eric Davis hit two four homers, bringing Cincinnati's total to nine in two games, and drove in four runs as Jose Rijo pitched the Reds to their fifth straight victory, 7-1 yesterday over the Houston Astros, in a Major League baseball game.

Both benches emptied, but no punches were thrown. After Houston reliever Xavier Hernandez hit Todd Benizner with a pitch following the second Davis homer, in the seventh inning. It scored Barry Larkin, the second of three batters hit by Hernandez.

Paul O'Neill and Glenn Braggs, who was hit in the sixth, also homered for the Reds. Rijo (5-2) allowed four hits, struck out 10 and walked three in eight innings, raising his lifetime record against the Astros to 7-1.

Mets 4, Pirates 3
Mark Carreon had two solo homers among the three hits and scored three runs, and Dwight Gooden beat Pittsburgh for the first time in two years to lead surging New York. Gooden (5-5), winless against the Pirates since June 22, 1988, survived Sid Bream's three hits as the Mets won twice in the three-game series. Carreon homered leading off the game against Neal Heaton (9-2).

Cardinals 7, Expos 1
Jose DeLeon gave up two hits in 7-1/3 innings and Terry Pendleton hit a disputed homer and drove in two runs as St Louis defeated Montreal in 97-degree weather.

DeLeon (6-5) struck out seven and walked six as the Cardinals won for the second straight time to end a 2-5 homestead. DeLeon allowed up only a first-inning homer to Spike Owen and a single to Nelson Santovenia in the fifth.

Results

American League	
Toronto	8 N.Y. Yankees 1
Boston	6 Baltimore 5
Cleveland	12 Milwaukee 4
California	7 Detroit 4
Minnesota	4 Kansas City 1
Oakland	5 Chicago 2
Seattle	6 Texas 3
National League	
N.Y. Mets	4 Pittsburgh 3
Cincinnati	7 Houston 1
St. Louis	7 Montreal 1
San Francisco	9 Atlanta 7
Los Angeles	6 San Diego 1
Chicago Cubs	5 Philadelphia 3

Tyson's win needs to be qualified

LAS VEGAS, June 18, (Reuters): There is no doubt that Mike Tyson's one-punch knockout of Henry Tillman on Saturday was as impressive as the former champion has ever been. But will he over-rate his victory?

Tyson was in excellent shape and completely different fighter than when he simply walked into punches and threw very few of his own against James "Buster" Douglas when he lost the title last February.

One of Tyson's cornermen told Reuters after the Douglas fight that Tyson took Douglas lightly because he believed what was "being said about him being so great."

Tyson himself said he "did not respect the title," and had not worked hard enough before the Douglas fight.

The question now is whether Tyson will sensibly regard beating Tillman as a confidence-builder or if he will interpret it rashly as proof that he will easily win back the title. "Believe me," Tyson said after the fight, "I'll never lose again."

The question of Tyson's ability to come back is not so much about physical talents as mental toughness.

"I trained for nine weeks. I haven't trained for nine weeks straight for such a long time. I paid my dues this time."

But Tyson's quick victory in two minutes and 47 seconds on Saturday must be qualified.

Emmanuel Stewart, manager of four-time world champion Thomas Hearns, told Reuters after the fight that Tillman was a "disgrace to boxing."

He agreed with one long-time boxing observer who said Tillman "gave up" after Tyson knocked him down.

This theory says Tillman, 29, could have gotten up but knew it was a losing cause and decided to take his \$350,000 and call it a night.

In fact, the right hand punch that caught Tillman high on the side of his head was not from a fully extended arm, raising the question about its force.

But it was clear from the opening bell that Tyson was not going to be denied by the likes of a frightened-looking Tillman, who backpedaled for most of the round. Tillman, now 20-5, hit Tyson flush with a right hand but the former champion, 38-1, dismissed it like a fly and waded into the hapless Tillman.

Tillman's plan appeared to be to try to get inside on Tyson, throw a few punches and then jump out of the way. But after a couple of attempts failed he tried merely to stay out of range.

Tillman, who beat Tyson in the Olympic trials in 1984, cannot take a good punch and does not have a punch to keep Tyson from coming inside.

Add to that Tyson's ability to cut off the ring on his opponents and the ending was inevitable.

Franklin shows fine form

NORTHAMPTON, England, June 18, (Reuters): New Zealand opener Trevor Franklin showed he is in fine form for Thursday's second cricket Test against England with 92 against Northamptonshire on the second day of their three-day game yesterday.

The tall, right-hander, who toiled nearly three hours for 33 runs during the drawn first Test at Trent Bridge, played more freely here, hitting three sixes and 10 fours.

He defied the Northamptonshire attack for three hours and 20 minutes, sharing in a second-wicket stand of 109 with Andrew Jones (46) as New Zealand scored 265 for five before declaring their first innings 14 runs behind.

When rain stopped play 15 minutes early, Northamptonshire were 71 for two in their second innings. West Indian fast bowler Curtly Ambrose put in a destructive burst which sparked a minor collapse. Ambrose claimed three wickets in 13 balls, prising out Franklin, Jones and struggling middle-order batsman Mark Greatbatch for a duck.

Greatbatch, who hit centuries in the two one-day internationals, has scored just four runs in his last four innings.

Ken Rutherford, however, confirmed his recovery from a hairline fracture of the skull when hit by a bouncer from Chris Lewis three weeks ago, by hitting an unbeaten 42 and may earn a recall for the Lord's Test.

Scoreboard

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE first innings 279 for nine declared	
NEW ZEALAND first innings (overnight 28-0)	
T. Franklin c Noon b Ambrose	92
J. Wright b Davis	31
A. Jones lbw b Ambrose	46
M. Greatbatch c Capel b Ambrose	0
K. Rutherford not out	42
M. Priest not out	32
S. Thomson not out	18
Extras (b-1 lb-5 w-2 nb-10)	4
Total (for five wickets declared)	265
Fall of wickets: 1-67 2-176 3-182 4-186 5-249 did not bat: Adam Parore, John Bracewell, Jonathan Millmow, Danny Morrison	

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE second innings	
A. Fordham run out	23
N. Batton c sub b Bracewell	22
R. Bailey not out	12
A. Lamb not out	6
Extras (b-2 lb-4 w-1 nb-1)	8
Total (for two wickets)	71
Fall of wickets: 1-45 2-50	



Rutherford: hit an unbeaten 42

Gatting's unbeaten 124 takes Middlesex past Leicestershire

LONDON, June 18, (Reuters): Former England cricket captain Mike Gatting hit an unbeaten 124 off 93 balls, his highest score in the English Sunday League, to guide Middlesex to a 16-run victory over Leicestershire and keep them joint top of the table.

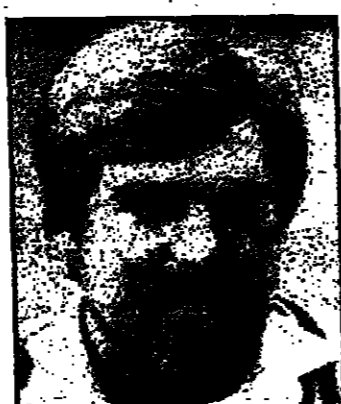
Gatting hit a six and 17 fours as Middlesex amassed 259 for five in their 40 overs. Tim Boon hit 84 in a first wicket stand of 119 with Nigel Briers as Leicestershire scored 243 for six in reply, their highest total in the League this season.

Alan Igglesden took four wickets for 24 runs — the last three in five deliveries — as Kent beat Nottinghamshire by 24 runs to remain level with Middlesex.

Kent were restricted to 178 for nine, with Barbadian paceman Franklin Stephenson taking four for 28, but bumbled Nottinghamshire out for 154.

England batsman Robin Smith scored his second century in successive days against Glamorgan as Hampshire romped to a 64-run victory.

Smith followed his 153 in the



Mike Gatting



Alan Igglesden



Robin Smith



Tim Boon

county championship on Saturday with a match-winning 122 and shared a second-wicket stand of 159 in 27 overs with Richard Scott, who made 61.

Third placed Derbyshire, two wins behind the leaders, beat Warwickshire by one run thanks to a cracking sixth-wicket partnership of 107 in 14 overs between Steve Goldsmith (50) and Chris Adams (58 not out).

The pair rescued Derbyshire after they slumped to 77 for five

and helped them reach 203 for eight.

Andy Moles kept Warwickshire in the hunt with 81 but they fell desperately short chasing 17 runs off the final over.

Results
At Derby: Derbyshire beat Warwickshire by one run. Derbyshire 203 for eight innings closed (C. Adams 58 not out, S. Goldsmith 50). Warwickshire 202 for six innings closed (A. Moles 81, T. Moody 45). Derby-

shire four points.
At Bath: Essex beat Somerset by 101 runs. Essex 217 for seven innings closed (P. Prichard 64). Somerset 116 in 34.5 overs. Essex four points.

At the Oval: Surrey beat Worcestershire by seven wickets. Worcestershire 177 for nine innings closed (D. D'Oliveira 53). Surrey 180 for three in 38.5 overs (M. Feltham 56, G. Thorpe 55). Surrey four points.

At Leicester: Middlesex beat

Leicestershire by 16 runs. Middlesex 259 for five innings closed (M. Gatting 124 not out, D. Haynes 49). Leicestershire 243 for six innings closed (T. Boon 84, N. Briers 46). Middlesex four points.

At Hove: Yorkshire beat Sussex by 40 runs. Yorkshire 192 for seven innings closed. Sussex 152 in 36.5 overs. Yorkshire four points.

At Canterbury: Kent beat Nottinghamshire by 24 runs.

Kent 178 for nine innings closed (C. Cowdrey 46; F. Stephenson four for 28). Nottinghamshire 154 in 38.3 overs (D. Randall 49; A. Igglesden four for 24). Kent four points.

At Bournemouth: Hampshire beat Glamorgan by 64 runs in match reduced to 37 overs-a-side. Hampshire 234 for six innings closed (R. Smith 122, R. Scott 61). Glamorgan 170 for seven innings closed (A. Butcher 52). Hampshire four points.

Standings

Sunday League cricket table after the latest round of matches (tablets underplayed, won, lost, tied, no result, points)	
Kent	8 7 1 0 0 28
Middlesex	8 7 1 0 0 28
Derbyshire	7 5 2 0 0 20
Gloucestershire	7 4 2 0 1 18
Lancashire	7 4 2 0 1 18
Nottinghamshire	7 4 2 0 1 18
Essex	8 4 4 0 0 16
Hampshire	7 3 3 0 1 14
Surrey	6 3 3 0 0 12
Warwickshire	7 3 4 0 0 12
Yorkshire	8 3 5 0 0 12
Sussex	6 2 3 0 1 10
Glamorgan	8 2 6 0 0 8
Leicestershire	8 2 6 0 0 8
Northants	6 2 4 0 0 8
Somerset	7 2 5 0 0 8
Worcestershire	7 2 5 0 0 8

Lendl can win Wimbledon title

LONDON, June 18, (Reuters): For Ivan Lendl, Wimbledon may not be, after all, the impossible dream.

Yesterday, Lendl scored his first grass court victory in four attempts over Boris Becker, the player regarded as pre-eminent on Wimbledon grass after three titles in five years there.

And while this triumph in the London championships at Queen's Club is no guarantee of Wimbledon success if they meet again in the final in three weeks' time, Lendl cleared a significant psychological hurdle by beating the West German.

Becker had defeated Lendl in their three previous grass court contests, including the semifinals at Wimbledon the last two years.

This time, the 30-year-old Czechoslovak didn't just beat Becker. It was a 6-3 6-2 annihilation and even Becker had to concede that Lendl "played like a perfect player on grass."

Not only did Lendl square his lifetime series with Becker at eight wins apiece, he also captured his second grass title in eight days and the third of his life. The first was in this event a year ago.

Not bad for a player who once said that, where tennis is concerned, "grass is for cows."

Even his coach, Australian Tony Roche, was pleased. "He's doing everything well. His first serve is good and when he's needed to go to his second serve, that's been good as well," Roche said.

"He has been getting stronger every match. There are still things to do, but basically all the hard work has been done."

Lendl, world number one during most of the last five years, knows his record is flamed with-out a Wimbledon title.

Over the past five years he has reached the final twice and the

semifinals twice but never clinched the championship.

Three US Opens, three French Opens and two wins in the Australian Open have only whetted his appetite for his first Wimbledon crown.

"I have only one ambition left in my life, to conquer Wimbledon," he said last week.

Financially set for life and with a wife and recently newborn baby daughter, Lendl has everything else he could want — except, perhaps, a lower golf handicap.

This year, the Wimbledon trophy has become Lendl's Holy Grail. He skipped the French Open last month to prepare for it.

After a tournament in Tokyo in April, he went to Australia to practise on grass, working not only with Roche but also with former greats Ken Rosewall and John Newcombe.

Then he returned to his American home in Greenwich,

Connecticut, for the birth of his child and to practise for three more weeks before coming to England.

"I didn't come here to win at Beckenham or at Queen's. Everything is geared to win Wimbledon," he said during the week.

But he won them both. Becker paid him tribute yesterday when he said "he served very well over two sets and never really let up. He goes for it more now."

Lendl is also a noticeably more fluent mover on grass now, an element he regards as vital to success on the surface. "It is natural for me now," he said.

Lendl will let Roche decide how much fine tuning he needs during the week before Wimbledon starts next Monday. He just hopes it won't interfere with his golf.

But Lendl is prepared to make any sacrifice.

"Wimbledon is the only thing I want now," he said.



Lendl: playing like a perfect grass player

Andretti wins Detroit GP

DETROIT, June 18, (AP): Michael Andretti shook off the bad luck that has plagued him since the middle of last season, winning yesterday's Detroit Grand Prix by nearly two minutes.

The 27-year-old driver, who lost two weeks ago at Milwaukee when he ran out of fuel while leading two laps from the end, this time led all 62 laps around the 2.5-mile (four-kilometre), 17-turn downtown street circuit.

Danny Sullivan mounted a late challenge and was right behind Andretti's Chevrolet-powered Lola as the two approached their final schedule pit stops.

Sullivan's Penske-Chevrolet trailed by just 0.3 seconds on lap 46 and he pitted the next time around. The stop was quick, but one of Penske Racing's airguns failed and Sullivan inadvertently left with the lug nuts on his right-rear wheel still loose.

Three elected to Hockey Hall of Fame

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, June 18, (Reuters): Gilbert Perreault, Bill Barber and Fern Flaman were named to the Hockey Hall of Fame by the Hall's player selection committee, the National Hockey League (NHL) announced yesterday.

Perreault and Barber were selected from a list of six finalists while Flaman was named in the veterans category in which a player must be retired at least 25 years.

Perreault, who starred for the Buffalo Sabres for 17 seasons, was the club's first draft choice when they entered the NHL as an expansion franchise in 1970.

Known for his dazzling skating ability and slick stick handling, Perreault ranks eighth on the NHL all-time scoring list with 512 goals, 814 assists for 1,326 points.

Barber, a first-round draft choice of the Philadelphia Flyers in 1972, was an integral member of the Flyers team that won consecutive Stanley Cups in 1974 and 1975. He scored 420 goals and 463 assists for 883 points during a 12-year career.

Flaman played 17 seasons as a defenceman for the Boston Bruins and Toronto Maple Leafs from 1944-45 to 1960-61 and was a member of the 1951 Maple Leafs team that won the Stanley Cup.

To be elected, a player must receive at least three quarters of the votes from a 12-member selection committee.

SPORTS BRIEFS

W. German rider

RIJEKA, Yugoslavia, June 18, (Reuters). West German Reinhold Roth was being kept alive by a life support system today after crashing in the Yugoslav 250cc Motorcycling Grand Prix. "He is still in a deep coma and his condition is utterly unstable," said Vesna Dosen, a doctor at the neuro-surgical hospital in Rijeka, where the 37-year-old rider was transported by helicopter after crashing in Sunday's race.

Royal Ascot

ASCOT, England, June 18, (Reuters). British champion jockey Pat Eddery returns from the sin-ban of a three-day ban straight to the glamour and glory of Royal Ascot tomorrow. The Irishman is at the peak of his powers after victories in the French and Epsom Derbys. Bookmakers quote him a 6-4 on chance to ride most winners during the four-day extravaganza.

Bislett Games

OSLO, June 18, (Reuters). Bislett Games will be able to win prize money up to \$6,000, organisers said today. "This is the first time we have introduced prize money as such," meeting director Svein Arne Hansen said, adding that the winner of the men's 10,000 metres had once been paid.

Gould quits

LONDON, June 18, (Reuters). Wimbledon manager Bobby Gould, who took "The Dons" to their 1988 FA Cup final triumph over Liverpool, today abruptly parted company with the club. Gould told the southwest London club he would not be extending his contract when it expires in December.

Davis triumphs

RICKMANSWORTH, England, June 18, (Reuters). Roger Davis won the Four Stars Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament after a play-off with fellow-Australian Mike Clayton which went to a seventh extra hole.

Johnson wins

SOMERS POINT, New Jersey, June 18, (Reuters). Chris Johnson won the \$300,000 Atlantic City Classic golf tournament by two strokes yesterday despite an erratic even-par round.

English clubs

SANTA MARGHERITA, Italy, June 18, (AP). Uefa president Lennox Johansson said today that English clubs probably won't be back in European competition this fall after renewed violence at the World Cup. "They will probably have to wait one more year," said Johansson, president of Europe's governing soccer federation.

European tour

LONDON, June 18, (Reuters). Roger Davis of Australia has replaced Britain's Ian Woosnam at the top of the European Tour money winners' list after his victory in the Four Stars Pro-Celebrity golf tournament at Rickmansworth yesterday.

Title fight

TOKYO, June 18, (AP). Iwao Tokimoto of Japan retained his Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation lightweight title today, fighting Choi Kang of South Korea to a 12-round draw. The Thai referee scored it 116-115 while Japanese judge had it 118-117 for Tokimoto and a Korean judge had it 118-114 for Choi.

Name changed

MONTREAL, June 18, (AP). The Canadian Track and Field Association changed its name yesterday at Athletics Canada — a more accurate title that also helps break with a troubled recent past over the Ben Johnson steroid scandal.

NHL club

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, June 18, (AP). The National Hockey League's board of governors has given the green light to Norm Green. It was a unanimous approval, the sale of the Minnesota North Stars Club to Green and two others.

Top teams in danger of elimination

Favourites may be left in limbo

NAPLES, June 18, (Reuters). Teams who started among the World Cup favourites could be left in a state of limbo by the complicated system of qualifying for the second round.

World champions Argentina, for example, went into their final Group B game with Romania this evening knowing that, unless they win, they could only hope to

get through as one of the "best of the rest."

Finishing third in the group could mean a three-day wait until all the group matches are completed on Thursday to find out who will qualify for the next round. Until Group F games are completed there will be a delay before teams know their next opponents and venue.

Several of the teams cited as potential World Cup winners before the tournament started were in danger of elimination before the final group matches.

Apart from the world champions, the Netherlands, the Soviet Union, England and Uruguay all needed a good result from their last match to stand a chance of surviving.

Some were likely to rely on the lottery of a third place in the group as their route to the second round.

The top two teams from each of the six groups qualify automatically for the last 16 along with the four best third placed teams, based first on points, then goal difference and finally on number of goals scored.

Only six nations — Italy, West Germany, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Belgium and Cameroon — won their first two matches to reach four points and guarantee themselves a place in the next round.

For the rest the target is three points, a figure which should be safe enough for qualification. Spain is the only team already there.

But to complicate matters, some nations may get through on two points which means that even countries who lost both their matches to date, such as the Soviet Union, Sweden and Austria, still have a chance.

Two of the six groups are particularly intricate. If logic follows its course in Group C, Brazil could be expected to beat Scotland and Sweden triumph over Costa Rica.

This would leave Brazil as group winners on six points and the other three teams on two each. Goal difference would then decide their fate but at least one would qualify as second in the group and perhaps another as a best-placed third team.

Group F with the Netherlands, England, Ireland and Egypt is a total conundrum because all four have two points and identical goals tallies.

Two more draws in Thursday's final matches could see the entire section decided literally by lottery. Egypt could be drawn as group winner and the Dutch eliminated even with the same records.

It is ironic that so many favourites should be struggling to get through because critics of the system have complained that the first two weeks of the tournament are meaningless as only eight of the 24 starters are eliminated.

The six outsiders from Asia, Africa and North and Central America were expected to go, leaving just two teams from Europe and South America accompanying them.

But the surprisingly upbeat performances of Cameroon, already certain of qualifying, as well as Costa Rica and Egypt, who are still in with a good chance, have thrown the groups wide open and made the early stages of the tournament less predictable.

Fears of an early exit have not encouraged a feast of goals to delight the fans. Only 53 were scored for an average of 2.2 per game when teams completed their second matches yesterday.

But that was marginally better than in Mexico four years ago when 52 goals were registered at the same stage.



The goal that started it all: Cameroon's Blyk Omani scores in the first match to upset Argentina

Yugoslavs to treat UAE with respect

BOLOGNA, June 18, (Reuters). Yugoslavia, needing two more points to be sure of reaching the second round of the World Cup finals, must not take victory over the United Arab Emirates for granted, coach Ivica Osim warned yesterday.

"This game is not a formality," said Osim of the Yugoslavs' final Group D match tomorrow. "If I were to suggest it was a formality the players could get the same idea and that would be dangerous."

Yugoslavia, equal with Colombia on two points, could qualify as second-place finishers with a draw — assuming the South American side loses to Group D leaders West Germany in Milan tomorrow.

The UAE's amateur side crashed 5-1 to West Germany and 2-0 to Colombia but Osim said they should not be underestimated. "They have some good players," Osim

said. "They didn't come here for fun. They are certainly going to try to prove themselves in their last match. We can't allow them to do anything, to create anything because that would give them a lift."

Osim said Yugoslavia, twice semifinalists at the World Cup, would come under immense pressure if they did not score an early goal.

"Everybody expects us to score in the first five minutes — if we don't we will get whistles and jeers," he said. "That will make it a difficult match."

Osim, who refuses to reveal his team until the last moment, made several changes in the line-up against Colombia on Thursday, dropping three players he considered not match fit in the 4-1 defeat by West Germany last weekend.

But it was only in the second half of the

Colombia match, with newcomer Robert Jarić and Yugoslav First Division top scorer Darko Pancev coming on as substitutes, that the side began to make an impact. Dayor Jozic scored the winner in the 73rd minute.

Jarić was expected to keep his place in midfield because first-choice Speco Katanec remains troubled by a knee injury.

The UAE, playing in their first World Cup finals, have a string of worries in defence. Mubark Ghanim is injured and Yousef Hussain Mohamed, his usual replacement, is suspended after collecting two yellow cards.

The team's Brazilian coach, Carlos Alberto Pereira, said he would probably play the less experienced Abdurrahman Mohamed Hadad instead.

Pereira was happy that his unrated side had not lost by a greater margin to twice winners West Germany.

German team seeks third straight win

MILAN, Italy, June 18, (AP). West Germany shoots for a third consecutive victory and third place in Group D when it faces Colombia in its final first-round World Cup match tomorrow.

Manager Franz Beckenbauer said his team has the ability to crush any opponent if it plays with the same aggression and concentration that produced big wins against Yugoslavia and the United Arab Emirates.

"Colombia is a strong opponent, but they could hardly resist us if we play the way we did in the championship so far," Beckenbauer said on the eve of the match, scheduled to kickoff at 5 pm (1500 GMT) at Milan's Meazza Stadium.

West Germany's attacking force, led by strikers Rudi Voeller and Juergen Klinsmann, slammed four goals against Yugoslavia and five against the Emirates last week.

The powerful West German team, perhaps the most impressive in the early matches of the month-long championship, can clinch first place in its group merely by drawing with Colombia.

Beckenbauer has said, however, that his team will play for a third victory in its traditional style — exerting pressure whenever possible.

Colombia, which enters tomorrow's match a win against the UAE and a loss against Yugoslavia, could be faced with an early elimination from the World Cup if it loses.

Colombian coach Francisco Maturana said he planned a few changes to the team which lost 1-0 to Yugoslavia.

Romario to play

ASTI, Italy, June 18, (Reuters). Brazilian striker Romario will play against Scotland in the World Cup Group C match on Wednesday, his first competitive outing since breaking a leg in a Dutch League match three months ago.

"I can confirm that, provided nothing unforeseen happens, Romario will play," Manager Sebastiao Lazaroni told reporters after a regular training session in this northern Italian town.

He grudgingly confirmed rumours that other changes, perhaps as many as three, were being considered but refused to be drawn on names.

Italy manager changes strike pair

MARINO, Italy, June 18, (Reuters). Italy manager Azeglio Vicini made two surprise changes in attack for the match against Czechoslovakia tomorrow, bringing in Salvatore Schillaci and Roberto Baggio.

He said Gianluca Vialli was suffering from muscular pains in his right leg and he thought it prudent to rest him.

Neither Vialli nor Andrea Carnevale scored in Italy's first two matches in the competition and Vicini said Carnevale's substitution was for "technical reasons."

"Schillaci and Baggio are fast and will add a certain speed up front," Vicini said.

"What is more they are the Italians who scored the most goals in the League last season."

The selection of Baggio, the world's most expen-

sive player after transferring to Juventus from Fiorentina for \$13 million at the end of last season, was the biggest surprise.

During Italy's disappointing 1-0 win over the United States, the crowd called for Baggio to be brought on. But Vicini indicated afterwards that he felt Baggio's recent performances showed he was not on top form.

Vialli's injury, which emerged in training on Sunday, made the team choice more difficult for him, however.

"I always consider Vialli fundamental to the team," he said, adding the pain was not serious and the Sampdoria striker would be fit for the second round.

Polster has chance to save Austria from despair

FLORENCE, June 18, (Reuters). Toni Polster, a pre-tournament tip to be one of the World Cup's most dangerous marksmen, gets his last chance to save Austria from despair in their final Group A match against the United States tomorrow.

The 26-year-old Austrian captain, who hit 33 goals for his Spanish club Sevilla last season, has failed to score in Austria's two disappointing 1-0 first-round defeats by Italy and Czechoslovakia.

He will need to be on target if the Austrians, who can no longer stop Italy and Czechoslovakia taking the first two places in the group, are to restore credit to their side with a convincing victory over the Americans.

"This has been a very disappointing World Cup," Polster said. "Especially as we expected so much."

In theory, Josef Hickersberger's young side could still sneak into the second round as one of the best third-placed teams if they win by a large margin.

But Hickersberger, who is virtually resigned to the fact that his team will be on a plane back to Vienna in a few days, is desperate to bow out with a flurry of goals.

"In theory we could get through," Hickersberger said. "But what I'm more concerned about at the moment is making sure that we play better than we have so far."



Ogris (left) could team up with Polster.



Hickersberger said the players were very depressed at their Arimino training camp in the hills just outside Florence. He gave them most of Saturday off

in an attempt to lift their spirits. The Austrians came to Italy after beating European champions the Netherlands and drawing with Argentina in friendlies

in May. "The worst thing is they have not played to their potential," he said. Hickersberger said he would

not be able to pick defender Kurt Russ, who is suffering from a groin strain. He may be tempted to play two strikers, Gerhard Rodax and Andreas Ogris, to team up with Polster, the formation which played the second half against Czechoslovakia.

The US, beaten 5-1 by Czechoslovakia in their opening match, were lifted by their solid performance in a 1-0 defeat by Italy in Rome on Thursday.

US coach Bob Gansler can choose from a fully fit squad and is unlikely to make any changes from the Rome side.

Gansler said yesterday his team had learned a great deal from their two matches.

"What surprised us against the Czechs was the speed of the game," he said at the US training camp in Thirrenia.

Probable teams:

Austria — Klaus Lindenberger, Ernst Aigner, Robert Pecl, Anton Pfeiffer, Michael Streiter, Andreas Ogris, Manfred Zsak, Alfred Hochtner, Andreas Herzog, Toni Polster, Gerhard Rodax.

United States — Tony Meola, John Doyle, Mike Windischmann, Desmond Armstrong, Marcelo Balboa, John Harkes, Tab Ramos, Bruce Murray, Paul Caligiuri, Peter Vermes, Jimmy Banks.

Referee: Jamal Al Sharif (Syria).



Argentine squad

Argentina's Diego Maradona makes a save with his hand during a training session at the Sao Paolo Stadium in Naples on Sunday. The Argentines were training for game against Romania. (Reuters wirephoto)

Standings

ROME, June 18, (Reuters). Collated World Cup group standings after 24 matches. (Tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)

Group A							Group D								
Czechoslovakia	2	2	0	0	6	1	4	West Germany	2	2	0	0	9	2	4
Italy	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	Colombia	2	1	0	1	0	2	1
Austria	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	Yugoslavia	2	1	0	1	1	2	4
United States	2	0	0	0	2	1	6	UAE	2	0	0	2	1	7	0
Group B							Group E								
Cameroon	2	2	0	0	3	1	4	Belgium	2	2	0	0	5	1	4
Romania	2	2	1	0	1	3	2	Spain	2	1	1	0	3	1	1
Argentina	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	Uruguay	2	0	1	1	1	1	1
Soviet Union	2	0	0	0	2	0	4	South Korea	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Group C							Group F								
Brazil	2	2	0	0	3	1	4	England	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Scotland	2	1	0	1	1	2	2	Ireland	2	0	2	0	1	1	1
Costa Rica	2	1	0	1	1	2	2	Netherlands	2	0	2	0	1	1	1
Sweden	2	0	0	2	2	4	0	Egypt	2	0	2	0	1	1	1

NOTE: Results of Argentina vs Romania and Cameroon vs Soviet Union not included. Today's games: (1) Italy vs Czechoslovakia — 10 pm (Kuwait time). (2) Austria vs United States — 10 pm. (3) W. Germany vs Colombia — 6 pm. (4) Yugoslavia vs UAE — 6 pm.

Matches 1 & 4 will be televised live by KTV.

Charlton rapped by Egyptians: Egyptian sports commentators yesterday lashed out at criticism of Egypt's soccer tactics, saying statements by Ireland coach Jack Charlton smelted of racism. "There is a bit of arrogance and racism in them," said Othman Salem, deputy head of Al Akhbar newspaper's sports section.

World Cup arrests total 60-plus: Italy has arrested more than 60 World Cup hooligans, mainly West Germans and English, and deported 70, the Interior Ministry said yesterday.

Lineker joins England injury list: Striker Gary Lineker joined captain Bryan Robson on the England injury list yesterday as coach Bobby Robson admitted he was pondering over his team for Thursday's Group F showdown with Egypt.

Higuaita visits injured Italian fan: Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuaita took time off from his World Cup training to visit a teenage Italian fan badly injured in soccer violence a year ago, team officials said yesterday. Higuaita took 15-year-old Ivan Dall'Oglio a Colombian flag and key-ring in a short private visit to the boy's home on Sunday.

Gullit says he needs more time: Dutch captain Ruud Gullit said yesterday he needed more time to recapture peak form after a year out of the game with a knee injury. Gullit was largely anonymous as the Netherlands stumbled to draws in their opening two Group F matches against Egypt and England.

Japanese TV crew beaten up: A group of English soccer fans beat up a Japanese television reporter and cameraman in Cagliari on Sunday, police said. They punched and kicked Juzuru Saito and Isayama Katsumi, both from the Japan Broadcasting Corporation NHK-TV, smashed their television camera and broke Saito's spectacles.

Donadoni discovers new talents: Italy's Roberto Donadoni is not only a wizard on the football pitch, but also at the pool table. The attacking midfielder, who confounds many a defence with his talents, has honed his pool skills during the long empty days between World Cup matches.

Dasayev to play on: Soviet goalkeeper Rinat Dasayev wants to win back his first team place and has no plans to retire from international soccer. In spite of a disastrous World Cup for Dasayev and the Soviet team the 33-year-old veteran said yesterday: "I will play for the team if I am chosen. Of course I want to play on (after the World Cup)."

Police chief defends tough action

CAGLIARI, June 18, (Reuters). Cagliari's police chief today defended tough action by riot squads against English World Cup hooligans and warned that his men would crack down hard again if the fans caused more trouble.

"We do not feel guilty at all. We did exactly what we had to do," Emilio Fazzi told a news conference called to explain his tactics when England supporters stoned police before their side's goalless draw against the Netherlands on Saturday.

Fazzi said police fired three or four rounds of tear-gas but no gun shots when fans charged a cordon of riot squads on their way to the stadium.

"Whenever hooligans do not behave properly they will be treated in the same way," he said.

"We don't want Cagliari to become a battlefield... I think we would use the same tactics again," he said.

The police made baton charges to drive back the fans as well as firing tear-gas.

Fourteen English soccer fans

were handed suspended jail sentences today after a street fight with riot police, and ordered to leave Italy, court officials said.

A court inside Cagliari's Buoncammino Jail gave the fans suspended sentences of up to four and a half months for offences including resisting police, malicious damage and carrying a knife.

The 14 had been held in the jail since their arrest on June 8, when drunken, bottle-throwing English supporters clashed with riot police in Cagliari's port area.

The 14, aged from 18 to 34, were immediately released after sentencing and taken to police headquarters where they were served with an order to leave Italy.



An England soccer fan crying in pain after being beaten by Italian police on Sunday.

ARAB @ TIMES

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